



Win an 18-day wildlife
and World Cup trip, p45
Plus: Ticket sale chaos, p48



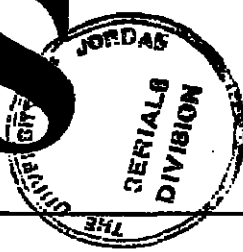
Why Hollywood
women fail at
the box office, page 14



Thomas Stuttaford on the
grossly overweight, p15
Plus: false cancer claims

20P

THE TIMES



No. 65,274

TUESDAY MAY 23 1995

Major ready to implement Nolan

Apology gets Sir Jerry off the hook

By Philip Webster and Arthur Leathley

MPs WERE warned by the Speaker yesterday to clean up their reputation amid signs that John Major was bowing to Labour demands to implement the Nolan committee recommendations in full.

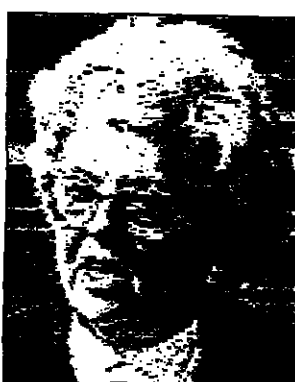
The dressing down from Betty Boothroyd was delivered after Sir Jerry Wiggins escaped an investigation and almost certain heavy punishment by the Privileges Committee after giving a full apology to the House for his behaviour. He had used another Tory MP's name to table an amendment to a Bill in which he had a financial interest.

Miss Boothroyd, who angered some Labour MPs by her decision not to refer Sir Jerry's case to the committee, said she trusted that this would be "the last disastrous occasion" in which she would be obliged to inquire into the conduct of an MP.

In remarks that clearly betrayed her exasperation, she said that "whatever the structures and procedures we have in this House, we cannot legislate for integrity." She added: "Individual members should act in such a manner whereby their integrity is not called into question."

In a letter to Peter Hain, Labour MP for Neath, who had referred Sir Jerry's conduct to her, Miss Boothroyd said that she felt his apology had disposed of the matter "and no interests of the House would be served by a reference to the Privileges Committee."

Her remarks suggested that Miss Boothroyd believed that the Commons disciplinary system, as administered through the Privileges Committee and the members' interests committee, is inadequate because of its cumbersome nature. Many MPs interpreted them as support for the Nolan proposals for an inde-



Boothroyd: "the last disastrous occasion"

pendent watchdog to investigate MPs' conduct, a ban on lobbying by MPs, and the disclosure of outside earnings for parliamentary work.

Soon after Miss Boothroyd spoke, there were indications that Mr Major had decided to face down the anger of many of his backbenchers and press on with putting the Nolan report into effect. At the end of last Thursday's Commons debate on Nolan there were suspicions that the Government was trying to kick the report into touch when it proposed the setting up of a Commons committee to consider its implications. At that time Tony Newton, the Commons leader, declined to give a guarantee that all the proposals would be implemented.

In a letter to Tony Blair last night, Mr Major said he had made clear his view about the needs for the highest standards in public life. "I set up the Nolan committee for this reason. I care about the reputation of Parliament and I want to restore public confidence. That is why I set up a committee with wide representation and why I have welcomed their report." Then, in a key phrase, he told Mr Blair, the

Leader of the Opposition, that the new committee's "objective will be to consider on behalf of the House the Nolan recommendations and how they might be implemented".

Labour leadership sources described the letter last night as an important step forward. Similar hints of progress were reported to have emerged from a brief meeting between Mr Newton and Ann Taylor, the shadow Commons leader. Mr Newton raised the issue of guidelines to be followed by the committee. But Labour remains to be satisfied about the timescale for implementation and the membership of the new Commons committee.

In a personal statement to the Commons, Sir Jerry acknowledged that his action in using Sebastian Coe's name on an amendment to the Gas Bill concerning supply of gas to caravan parks "was at odds with the proper expectations of the House". He insisted to report into effect.

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Matthew Parris, page 2
Politics, page 10



Patricia Whitehead leaving the High Court in London yesterday after her two-month sentence for perverting the course of justice was quashed on appeal

Court frees wife who lied after car crash

By Emma Wilkins and Andrew Pierce

A MOTHER of three who was jailed for two months for lying to police about a car accident to protect her husband had an emotional reunion with her children last night after her sentence was quashed by the Court of Appeal.

Patricia Whitehead, 32, a club scout leader, wept in the dock when Lord Justice Swinton Thomas said that her place was at home with her children. But her husband David, 47, jailed for four months on the same charge, was refused leave to appeal by another judge. Mr Justice Otton, after a 45-minute private hearing. His solicitor is now considering an application to the Court of Appeal.

Mrs Whitehead, from Brockenhurst, Hampshire, had been sentenced on Friday

at Winchester Crown Court after admitting to perverting the course of justice. She had told police that she, and not her husband David, had been behind the wheel when the accident happened last August.

Penal reform groups, dismayed by the sentence, mounted a huge campaign to free her from Holloway prison.

Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, reducing the sentence to 50 hours community service, said that they had taken into account the "distress and anxiety" she had suffered in prison.

The court was told that she had agreed to the deception only because her husband had feared he would be banned from driving, and lose his livelihood, because he already

had previous motoring convictions.

Mr Whitehead, a Sunday school teacher, was last night continuing his sentence at Winchester prison.

Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, announcing the court's ruling, said: "Courts have always taken a very serious view of offences of perverting the course of justice for the simple reason that they undermine the rule of law and the whole basis of the administration of the law."

"We regard this case as being finely balanced as to whether a custodial sentence is or is not required." But he said the matter "which tipped the balance in favour of a non-custodial sentence" was the position of the three young

children Ian, nine, Christian, seven, and Alexander, five.

They have been cared for by their grandparents at their home at Shanklin, Isle of Wight, since the weekend. The children were told their parents were on holiday.

After the hearing Mrs Whitehead said: "I just want to go home and give my children a hug. The children do not know anything about it. I want to go home and tell them. I am very relieved."

The court was told she had been persuaded to lie by her husband in an effort to save

the family from potential financial ruin.

The couple were experiencing acute money problems and Mr Whitehead had taken a £12,000 a year job as a computer consultant at St Thomas' Hospital, London. He already had previous motoring convictions and erroneously feared he would lose his licence under the totting-up procedure.

Ben Compton, for Mrs Whitehead, said that Mr Whitehead was driving his parents, sister, and two

Continued on page 2, col 3

Blair sets a low-tax target

Tony Blair has indicated that he would not allow tax rates under a Labour government to rise higher than the international average.

In a statement on the framework that would guide Labour, he said that the objective of government was to lower the tax burden on ordinary families. Page 2

Israel abandons seizure of land

Arab states have suspended a planned emergency summit on Israeli annexation of land in East Jerusalem after Israel froze the plan. The reversal prompted fury among the Israeli Right. Page 11

Mallory grandson fulfils family's Everest dream

By Ronald Faun

GEORGE MALLORY has reached the summit of Everest, 71 years after his grandfather, George Leigh Mallory, disappeared on the mountain leaving unanswered the question: were Mallory and his climbing partner Andrew Irvine the first men to conquer the highest point on earth?

Mallory, 35, from Melbourne, Australia, carried the family name most famously associated with Everest to the 29,028ft summit on May 14 following the same route on the Tibetan side of the mountain attempted three times by his grandfather. He was one of 13 successful climbers on an American expedition commemorating the attempt of the first British expeditions in 1924. That culminated in the loss of Mallory and Irvine who were last glimpsed through a clearing in the mist - two small, dark dots at an outcrop on the north ridge known as the second step.

That point is at about 26,000ft and there has been argument ever since whether Mallory and Irvine, crudely equipped and climbing into the unknown, could have overcome the remaining obstacles and reached the summit. Mal-

lory's grandson, an experienced mountaineer, has no doubts. The second step, he said, was easy, even in the dark. "I am convinced Mallory and Irvine could have climbed it in 1924."

George Mallory's success and safe retreat from Everest was triumph news for John Mallory, 73, who was two years old when his father disappeared on the mountain. John was at base camp on the Rongbuk glacier where earlier this month a memorial plaque in Welsh slate was dedicated to the early explorers.

He said: "We set up the plaque near where the 1924

cairn was situated so that as one looks at it, one has the magnificent view of Mount Everest behind. We had a small ceremony which was deeply moving."

Paul Piau, the American leader of the commemorative climb, said that the expedition had been organised for no better reason than the one George Mallory had famously given, "because it is there".

Steve Bell, an Everest climber, said that however popular Everest might be as a goal, success would always be on the shoulders of such men as George Mallory, Andrew Irvine, and the early pioneers.



George Mallory and his pioneering grandfather



Inquiry into pupils' use of calculators

By Ben Preston, Education Correspondent

AN INQUIRY into the use of calculators in schools was ordered yesterday by government education advisers. The move follows concern that primary pupils, in particular, are becoming over-reliant on calculators and neglecting basic arithmetic.

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority said it would investigate the mathematical performance of children in countries such as Germany, Japan and Hungary where calculators are banned until secondary school.

In contrast, the national curriculum requires primary pupils in England and Wales to use calculators for some mathematics lessons.

Pressure has been mounting for the authority to consider the impact of calculators on numeracy. Last summer the Office for Standards in Education reported that calculators were used far more frequently in state schools in England and Scotland than they were in other countries. In Korea, which scores highly in comparisons of performance in mathematics, calculators are not used in primary or secondary schools.

Nicholas Tate, chief executive of the assessment author-

ity, said: "We are investigating ways in which calculators can best be used to aid the development of numeracy. But we are also looking to see when it would be appropriate to restrict their use. There are other countries, for instance Japan, where calculators are not used at the primary stage."

The Government has promised not to change the new curriculum, which comes into force in September, for at least five years. But authority officials said yesterday that it was prepared to issue additional guidance advising schools to restrict the use of calculators heavily if the inquiry findings demanded tough action.

The authority also announced it was commissioning research into the poor literacy skills of boys. The performance gap between the sexes in English has become glaring since the advent of national curriculum testing at the ages of seven and 14.

Officials said they wanted to investigate further after evidence emerged suggesting that the rapid annual increase in the GCSE pass rate over the past six years was almost solely the consequence of improved academic performance by girls.

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TV & RADIO46, 47
WEATHER24
CROSSWORDS.....24, 48

LETTERS17
OBITUARIES19
BERNARD LEVIN16

ARTS33-35
CHESS & BRIDGE.....44
COURT & SOCIAL.....18

SPORT42-46, 48
BODY AND MIND15
LAW REPORT41

Sir Jerry gets away with a wiggling from the beak



Skinner: disgusted

DENNIS SKINNER summed it up. "Is that it?" he called, after Sir Jerry Wiggins had sat down. "So 'as 'e got away with it then?"

"E ad. It must have been hard for Sir Jerry to do what Stephen Fry took weeks to do and Lord Lucan never did.

Three hundred years ago Sir John Trevor (a Speaker so cross-eyed that fights broke out as two Members caught his eye at once) was found taking bribes, took to his bed, sent in a series of sick notes and never returned. Twenty years ago John Stonehouse (Labour's Postmaster General) failed to fake his own suicide in Miami, flew to Australia and sat tight. Sir

Jerry's mistakes have been paltry by comparison, but still the temptation to stay in South Africa must have been strong. It is autumn now on the Witwatersrand. The summer heat is over and the rains have gone. The sky is clear, the sun bright. Sniff the evening breeze and you can smell the charcoal and grilling meat. Listen, and you can hear the opening crack of a can of cold Castle beer.

Yesterday in the Commons, Sir Jerry sniffed, but the only grilling was his own. He listened, but the only crack was Madam Speaker's whip.

It was like a dressing down in school assembly. So serious a matter was this that the headmistress herself was to



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

talk to the whole school. The boy concerned had been away, returning to find the other boys and girls whispering in the playground, and classmates taking him aside for those oh-so-sympathetic private words. "Serious matter, old chap," they say. "Everyone's frightfully steamed up about it. We're on your side, of course, but it looks like there'll be hell to pay."

Behind your back you know they call you every name under the sun. No

doubt unable to bear one more po-faced colleague stopping him in the corridor to wish him luck, Wiggins came in early and sat at the back. He folded his arms. Wearing a pale shirt, mid-grey suit and quiet silk tie, his iron-grey hair was lightly oiled and impeccably combed. His face was a mask of impassivity. As they said in the trailer for that Hollywood movie *Hairspray*, his life was a mess, but his hair was perfect.

"A personal statement from Sir Jerry Wiggins" was the

phrase Miss Boothroyd chose, but her look said: "So what have you got to say for yourself, young Wiggins?"

Sir Jerry spoke. Sorry being the hardest word, he chose instead "My behaviour was at odds with the proper expectations of this House". Love, we suppose, is never having to say that your behaviour has been at odds with proper expectations.

Sir Edward du Cann would have grovelled majestically; David Mellor would have bragged, jested and entertained. But Sir Jerry, being by constitution ill-adapted to the grovel and by intellect incapable of the *tour de force*, plodded his way through a clumsy schoolboy recan-

tion. It achieved its purpose. What spoils the entertainment yesterday is that Sir Jerry Wiggins is not a wicked man. He is just one of life's tourists. On leaving his hotel Sir Jerry would never take the dressing gown or kettle, but you might find the complimentary teabag and courtesy shower-cap in his luggage. Yesterday's plot was short of a proper villain.

Still, Betty Boothroyd camped it up as best she could, old trouper that she is. Adopting her "Nanny is not cross, she is just very, very disappointed" voice, she said she hoped she would never have to speak to the boys and girls like this again. Some hope.

Nolan's inquiry to cost £1.5m

Lord Nolan's committee on standards in public life spent £317,200 producing its first report. It is estimated that the committee, which has been established for three years, will cost upwards of £1.5 million over this period. The figures came yesterday in a written answer from the Prime Minister.

Lord Nolan and the two MPs on the committee, Tom King and Peter Shore, receive no payment but the other seven members were paid a salary of £1,000 a month from November to April and now receive an allowance of £155 plus expenses a day.

Technology fund

The Government is to spend an extra £40 million over the next three years to help to encourage the development of partnerships between industry and new technologies. The money for the Foresight Challenge, announced yesterday by David Hunt, the Public Service and Science Minister, will be matched by a similar sum from industry.

Money search

A national police task force is needed to uncover money launderers filtering more than £2.5 billion through Britain each year, according to the head of the National Criminal Intelligence Service. Some crime was beyond the ability of local forces, Albert Pacey said. He estimated that £500 billion was being laundered worldwide.

Tolls may rise

The tolls for some heavily-used tunnels and bridges in England and Wales could soar after a government announcement that it is considering the deregulation of 16 private and local authority controlled river crossings. John Watts, the Roads Minister, launched a consultation paper on the proposals aimed at cutting red tape.

Direct advice

The Bar is offering to relax its ban on people briefing barristers without first seeing a solicitor so that advice and law centres can send clients direct. Peter Goldsmith, QC, said that after the Lord Chancellor's Green Paper on legal aid, advice and law centres should be allowed to brief barristers directly. Legal aid win, page 8

Act anniversary

Alf Morris, the Labour MP for Wythenshawe and the man behind the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, speaking at the launch of a book marking 25 years of the Act today, will say that while much has been achieved, including access to buildings, some needs are still not being met. Leading article, page 17

Arms exports

A fifth of Government arms exports is paid for by the taxpayer through grants, subsidies, overseas tours and by underwriting foreign customers who fail to pay their bills, according to a report by the World Development Movement, which last year successfully challenged the use of aid money to fund the Pergau dam.

CORRECTION

Renault car sales in Britain (report, May 10) have grown by 12.5 per cent this year.

Party tries to bury high-spending reputation with promise of low-inflation policies

Blair hints taxes would not rise under Labour

By PHILLIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR gave his clearest signal last night that he would not allow tax rates under a Labour government to rise higher than the international average.

Outlining the economic framework that would guide Labour in office, Mr Blair said for the first time that the objective of any government was to lower rather than increase the tax burden on ordinary families. In remarks clearly designed to show that Labour had buried its tax-and-spend image for good, he pointed to international constraints that would mean a Labour government could

never return to penal rates. Delivering the Mait Lecture at the City University, London, he said the growing integration of the world economy meant that it was not possible for Britain to sustain budget deficits or a tax regime wildly out of line with the other major industrial countries. He said one of the aims of the tax structure was to attract enterprise from overseas, clearly implying limits on higher rates of tax.

Mr Blair's lengthy address was intended to emphasise that Labour would make low inflation the cornerstone of its economic policies. But its over-

riding theme was to contain expectations by emphasising the long-term nature of Labour's project to put the economy right.

He spoke of the "long and gruelling slog" to control public spending but said the alternative was far worse. In the past, excessive spending in the short term had had to be retrenched with painful long-term consequences.

In what was hailed as the toughest economic statement ever put forward by an Opposition party, Mr Blair presented himself as "an unashamed long-termist" and rejected short-term and crude demand

management and *laissez-faire* monetarism.

He declared that controlling inflation was not only an objective in itself. "It is an essential prerequisite of sustainable economic growth on a scale sufficient to attain the social and political aims of the Labour Party, including high durable levels of employment and rising living standards."

Mr Blair said a low-tax economy was possible only in a successful economy. Decisions about appropriate levels of taxation and spending could not be divorced from the performance of the economy.

"Economic success over the medium term will enable a Labour government to reduce the amount of spending that simply mops up the consequences of economic failure—rescue spending—and raise the proportion that is available for renewal spending, especially on investment, education and training."

Mr Blair's aim, according to Labour sources, was to try to move beyond the errors of Right and Left in the past and to establish an economic consensus. He said he "does not care in the least that there will be areas of agreement between Left and Right".

Mr Blair also hinted at measures to clamp down on cosy relationships between company chiefs and non-executive directors who were supposed to check excessive pay awards and mismanagement. He said: "Although it would be wrong to exaggerate the significance of non-executive directors at the moment, many are too close in a personal sense to their chairman or chief executives."

Mr Blair said that deregulation was not enough to cure the ills of the economy. The public sector must accept its



Tony Blair: offered a long-term project "that would put the economy right"

responsibility to act in partnership with the private sector to transform the supply side of the economy. Labour would act in partnership with industry to help business and boost employment.

He added that the industrial battles of the past were rightly behind them and must not be allowed to return. "The union excesses of the 1970s were wrong, but it would be just as wrong to replace them with an attitude of worker subservience to an almighty management."

He pledged that Labour would reform the benefits

system so that welfare payments were used to support work, not unemployment; reform the labour market, including a tax rebate for employers taking on the long-term unemployed; and a reform of childcare and training opportunities to support single parents to enter the labour market.

John Major immediately attacked the Opposition leader's pledge on low inflation. "Whatever the Labour Party might say, I think you'd go a very long march to find anyone who believed that Labour could sustain the counter-

inflation policy that we have sustained consistently for the last five years."

"I welcome the fact that the Labour Party has acknowledged that, as far as the battle of ideas is concerned, in industrial, commercial and economic policy, we have been right for so long and they have been wrong."

"But if they were wrong in the past, why should anyone assume that they will be right in carrying it out in the future?"

Politics, page 10
Tim Congdon, page 16

Wife who lied over crash freed

Continued from page 1

French friends to the ferry at Lymington after a family reunion in August last year.

Mr Whitehead's Nissan car collided with a motorcyclist, Robert Pearce, who suffered shock and bruising and was taken to hospital. Mrs Whitehead was at home at the time with the couple's children.

An off-duty policeman, who heard the crash, went to the scene where he found Mr Whitehead apologising. He said: "I am sorry, I did not see him." The group drove on to the port but the ferry had already left. They returned to Brockenhurst past the scene of the accident. Mr Compton said: "Mr Whitehead saw a police car and he panicked. He immediately drove home. He was in a state of anxiety.

He told his wife that he had been in an accident.

She agreed to say she was the driver. What she did was out of misplaced loyalty to her husband. She had not thought through the enormity of the offence. "The rest of the group in the car also agreed to the same story."

The appeal judge pointed out that Mr Whitehead had involved his car passengers — his parents, his sister and their two French guests — in the deception. The offence was not committed on the spur of the moment. The plan was "hatched" in the hour between the accident and the arrival of police at the couple's home. The couple's story was maintained six days later when the husband and wife were interviewed separately by the

police. Despite repeated warnings from police officers that there was overwhelming evidence that Mr Whitehead was the driver and that they faced "devastating consequences", the couple refused to budge from their story. They left the police station late at night and had second thoughts and decided to confess.

Lord Justice Swinton Thomas said that it was wrong to describe the incident as a minor offence or a momentary lapse of integrity.

"An attempt to pervert the course of justice was maintained at length and in detail in the intervening six days. We very much doubt whether ordinary members of the public would regard the facts of this incident as a minor lapse of integrity," he said.

Health union rejects pay offer

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY a million NHS workers are prepared to take industrial action after the largest health union rejected the Government's pay offer yesterday.

Members of Unison, representing 440,000 nurses, ambulance crews, clerical staff and ancillary workers, voted by nine to one to oppose the offer of a 1 per cent national rise with up to 2 per cent to be negotiated locally. However, the union is to delay a ballot on industrial action until July to allow action to be co-ordinated with other health unions.

Bob Aberley, Unison's head of health, said the result, on a 40 per cent turnout, had given the union the mandate it needed. "The message could not be clearer: local pay is

unacceptable in the NHS." The Government now faces opposition to its local pay plans from all the main NHS unions representing 900,000 staff. It is involved in a dispute with the British Medical Association over plans for new payments for night visits.

The BMA is balloting GPs on the latest offer of a flat payment for night work of £2,000 plus £20 a visit. Early indications are that it will be rejected which would cause a second ballot on sanctions.

Health Department officials will today meet leaders of the 35,000-member Royal College of Midwives which has suspended its ballot on industrial action pending the outcome of the talks. The college said it

was seeking an immediate stop to NHS trusts' downgrading of midwives, some of whom had been forced to accept pay cuts of £2,500.

The Health Visitors Association decided to ballot its 16,000 members at the weekend on action aimed at disrupting administration. The Royal College of Nursing is to ballot its 300,000 members on a decision last week by its congress to drop its no industrial action rule. A further ballot would be required before nurses took action, which would be limited to administrative disruption to avoid harming patients.

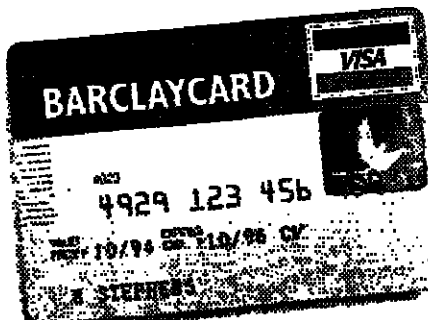
Philip Hunt, director of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, said industrial action would damage services.

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Starving woman in cave may be British

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

SIX weeks after an English-speaking woman was found starving in a cave on the coast of Cyprus, her identity remains a mystery to the island's authorities, who suspect she is on the run from police in another country.

Last night, police said that any connection between "the cave woman" and the discovery at the weekend of a headless, decomposing corpse in the sea close to the cave was speculation. A post-mortem examination will be carried out on the man's body today.

The blonde, middle-aged woman has refused to reveal her name and has variously described herself as a Polish Jew, an Israeli, a German and a stateless gypsy who has been wandering around Europe since the age of 14. Police believe she may be British.

"All we know is she speaks and writes English perfectly," said Dr Elias Nicolaides, a psychiatrist who has been treating the woman at Limassol Hospital since early April.

He said police wanted to deport her "because she appears to have something to hide and they say she appears to have entered the country illegally".



The mystery woman

gally", Dr Nicolaides added that the woman "has personality rather than psychological problems".

Peasant farmers stumbled across the woman living in a cave in the remote and rugged Akamas peninsula, north of the coastal resort of Paphos. She had been living on water and oranges for two weeks and was weak, malnourished and deeply traumatised. She had neither passport nor other identification. Police believe the woman, who communicates mainly by written notes and diagrams, arrived on the island by boat as one of her earliest sketches was of a yacht at sea.

Photographs published in Cypriot and European newspapers have resulted in nothing more than frustrating false leads. Several Israelis claimed to have identified her from press photographs as a Jewish Israeli wife. Interpol was last night trying to contact a woman in Paris who wrote to Limassol Hospital claiming the woman was a former art college friend known as Sophie. "I'd be surprised if she is French, because her English is so much better," Dr Nicolaides said.

The headless and armless corpse of the white, middle-aged man was found by fishermen off the Akamas coast at the weekend. Marios Matsakis, the state coroner, said the body had been in the sea for about two months. He said that it was not clear if the man's head and arms had been severed deliberately.

"We don't have any evidence yet to connect the body to the woman, but witnessing something horrific could explain the trauma she was found in," said Dr Vassilis Hadjivassiliou, another psychiatrist at Limassol Hospital. He added: "We have not spoken to her about the body, but she did insist before that she had not seen anything horrible."



Chelsea pensioners admire a floral display at the annual show. Some people fear flowers now take second place to garden equipment

Bellamy laments wilting spirit of Chelsea

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE Chelsea Flower Show was accused of creeping commercialisation yesterday by the naturalist David Bellamy, who said the event was inferior to other horticultural shows in the country.

On the eve of the opening of the world's biggest floral display, Dr Bellamy said it had lost its status as the best flower show in Britain. The Southport Horticultural Show was now the finest event of its kind in this country, he said.

The horticultural hardware and garden furniture on display outside the Great Marquee came in for particular criticism. "I have been coming for one reason or another since the end of the war," Dr Bellamy said. "I think it has become perhaps over-commercialised in terms of a number of things sold here. They have not got garden gnomes yet, but there do seem to be more and more things like lawnmowers and garden seats. I understand why they do it,

because it probably brings in money, but it seems a shame that it has gone away from being a pure celebration of horticulture, of flowers and plants."

Dr Bellamy, a wise greybeard of the botanical world, was at Chelsea to promote a garden designed to publicise the work of the Alzheimer's Disease Society. His views were rejected by another giant of gardening, Clay Jones, 71-year-old former presenter of *Gardeners' Question Time* on BBC Radio 4, who was choosing a new lawnmower.

Mr Jones, at his 33rd Chelsea show, said: "The gardening equipment is absolutely essential. These people have been there as long as I can remember and the furniture people down this end likewise. It's all part and parcel of this wonderful thing we call gardening."

Mr Jones recalled that there used

to be a ban on selling at the show but this was lifted several years ago to his satisfaction. In the Great Marquee, flowers and plants cannot be sold until the final minute of the final day when visitors traditionally stampede to denude their favourite stands of prize exhibits.

It is possible to walk for some distance at the show without encountering any display of flowers. The Northern Road of the showground features rows of gleaming tractors opposite lines of expensive conservatories.

Visitors can inspect pots, statues, fountains, tubs, urns, tables, sundials, gazebos, umbrellas, paving slabs, weather vane, signs, pumps, hammocks, tools, books, labels, poisons, watering cans, candles, fences, barrows and taps. A display of chainsaws and lawnmowers by Stihl Power Tools, a German firm, was defended

by Ian Gracewood, the firm's area manager. "You need machines to prepare the ground to put flowers and plants in," he said. "You get the landed gentry with their big estates who won't go to agricultural machinery dealers. Instead, they like to come to Chelsea and walk around with their Royal Horticultural Society handbook looking at what's new."

He draws the line at actually selling equipment during the show, instead telling visitors how to contact their local supplier. "That's the gentlemanly way of going on," he said.

Stephen Bennett, the show's director, agreed that Chelsea was becoming more commercialised but felt it was to everyone's benefit. It cost £2 million to stage and made a profit of £15 million, he said. It and the Hampton Court Palace flower show, to be held in July, were the only profitable events on the Royal Horticultural Society calendar and subsidised the many smaller shows.

Sikh changed name and won Group 4 interview

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A SIKH born in India who was refused a job with Group 4 was invited to interview with the security firm after applying under the false name of John Smith, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Group 4, which runs the country's first privatised jail, allegedly operated a "whites only" employment policy once the recession began, the tribunal was told. Harbhajan Birdi, 57, said he exposed the firm's racism when he sent in a bogus application days after his first form had been turned down by the firm's bosses, who had admitted they were impressed with his credentials.

Immediately he presented his "revised application" form under the name "John Smith". Mr Birdi was shortlisted for the £12,000-a-year vacancy at the firm's office at Feltham, west London.

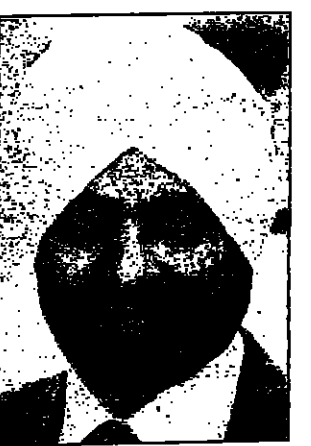
Mr Birdi, a father of three, who has 11 years' experience as a security guard, gave identical details on each application form apart from his name and nationality, the tribunal at Croydon, south London, was told. He is at present unemployed and is claiming he was racially discriminated against.

The tribunal was told that "John Smith" was among four white people invited for an interview. All four black and

ethnic applicants were turned down without an interview. Mr Birdi, of Elstree, Hertfordshire, said he had worked for the firm between 1979 and 1980 at a time when business was booming and management could not afford to reject black or Asian applicants. He was deeply hurt by the offer of an interview under the fictitious name in August 1992.

He told the hearing: "I thought there must be something very fishy when I got the rejection. I immediately thought this must be because of my colour and my race."

"To verify that, I decided to make an application in the name of 'John Smith' instead of my own and with all the



Birdi: "impressive CV"

other particulars the same except I said 'John Smith' was British. Within a week I got a reply in 'John Smith's' name, offering him an immediate interview. I was very upset. My conclusion was the colour was working. This was a pure matter of race."

Michael Whitmore, for Mr Birdi, said he had an impressive curriculum vitae as a security officer. A letter rejecting his application in his real name said: "Unfortunately we do not have a suitable vacancy for you at this time, but we were impressed with your application and will keep it on file and contact you in the near future should a suitable vacancy arise."

He said this was particularly important because once Mr Birdi instituted proceedings against Group 4, the firm claimed that during his previous period of employment with them his work had been "less than impressive".

Mr Whitmore said Group 4 had been operating a "whites only" employment policy throughout the recession. "It is clear Group 4 has been discriminating against black people and Asians. They say they have large numbers of non-whites working for them but it is clear these people were recruited when it was difficult to get labour."

The hearing continues.

500-mile taxi ride to court

TWO teenagers took a 500-mile taxi ride from Frankfurt to London and then ran off without paying, a court was told yesterday. Kamaldeep Singh Salh and Shiveet Chadha, both 19 and unemployed, still have no means of paying the £1,000 fare.

Salh of Heston, and Chadha of Hounslow, both west London, admitted making off without paying the fare last August and were ordered to do community service. They blame a German-speaking co-defendant who jumped bail.

Mark Stern, for the prosecution, said the driver had seen the three young men, laden with luggage, outside Frankfurt railway station and offered his services. "At first they wanted to go to the Black Forest, a distance of about 300 to 400 kilometres. But then they decided to go to London."

After agreeing a fare of £1,000 to be paid on arrival, the driver took them to Ostend. They caught a ferry to Ramsgate and drove to the Heston services near Heathrow Airport.

There the third man said he would call his brother to bring the money, Mr Stern said. "He insisted on the driver going with him and on their return the boot was open, the luggage removed, the driver pushed aside and the three ran off."

Salh was ordered to do 100 hours' community service and Chadha 120 hours.

Drink-drive steward escapes ban

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

A GOLF club steward who failed a breath-test after driving 300 yards to help the police to investigate a burglary avoided a driving ban for a second time yesterday after winning the sympathy of two High Court judges.

Graham Cox, 50, will not be disqualified even though he was well over the legal alcohol limit and admitted drink-driving. His midnight dash to a suspected break-in at the clubhouse of Malton and Norton Golf Club, North Yorkshire, amounted to a "special reason" for leniency, the judges ruled.

The prosecution of Cox arose after a trainee policewoman he was helping at the clubhouse suspected him of drink-driving, but failed when the High Court heard he drove only because of the

urgent need to help the police. Lord Justice McCowan, sitting with Mr Justice Mitchell, said yesterday that "after some hesitation" he rejected a prosecution appeal against the decision by magistrates to show mercy.

The judges agreed with magistrates in Pickering, North Yorkshire, that the steward was caught up in "a developing situation at the clubhouse which could be getting worse by the minute".

The burglar alarm went off at the club, 300 yards from Mr Cox's home in Norton, last August. Mr Cox, the main keyholder, received a tip-off from the alarm company and drove along a deserted country road just after midnight to the isolated clubhouse, which had been burgled before. Earlier, with no intention of driving that night, he had drunk four to five cans of lager on top of

a pint drunk at work. He searched the premises with Rebecca Bettison, 22, a probationary policewoman, but the intruder had escaped. She later requested he take a breath test after noting he was "a little wobbly" and smelt of alcohol.

Mr Cox, who pleaded guilty before the magistrates to driving while over the limit, said he had not considered walking, calling a taxi or asking his wife to drive because he needed to reach the scene as soon as possible. "I only drove 300 yards, half of that along a private road to the clubhouse. I was very surprised when I was arrested after turning out to assist the police."

His prosecution angered many of the club's 700 members, who included police officers enjoying "goodwill concessions". The magistrates fined Cox £270 with £40 legal costs.

Shootings blamed on gangs' struggle for power

BY KATE ALDERSON

A WAR between two Liverpool gangs has been blamed for a series of shootings in which one man was killed and several injured. Armed officers have stepped up patrols in the city to deter gangs using weapons and to reassure the public.

There have been ten shooting incidents since February, only two of which police have confirmed as unrelated. The most recent incident was a drive-by shooting in Anfield at lunchtime yesterday.

The gang rivalry became more violent earlier this year and is based on a struggle for territory and the profits of organised crime, including racketeering and drugs. Tension increased when a predominantly black gang encroached on territory in south Liverpool previously controlled by a well-established white gang consisting mainly of two families.

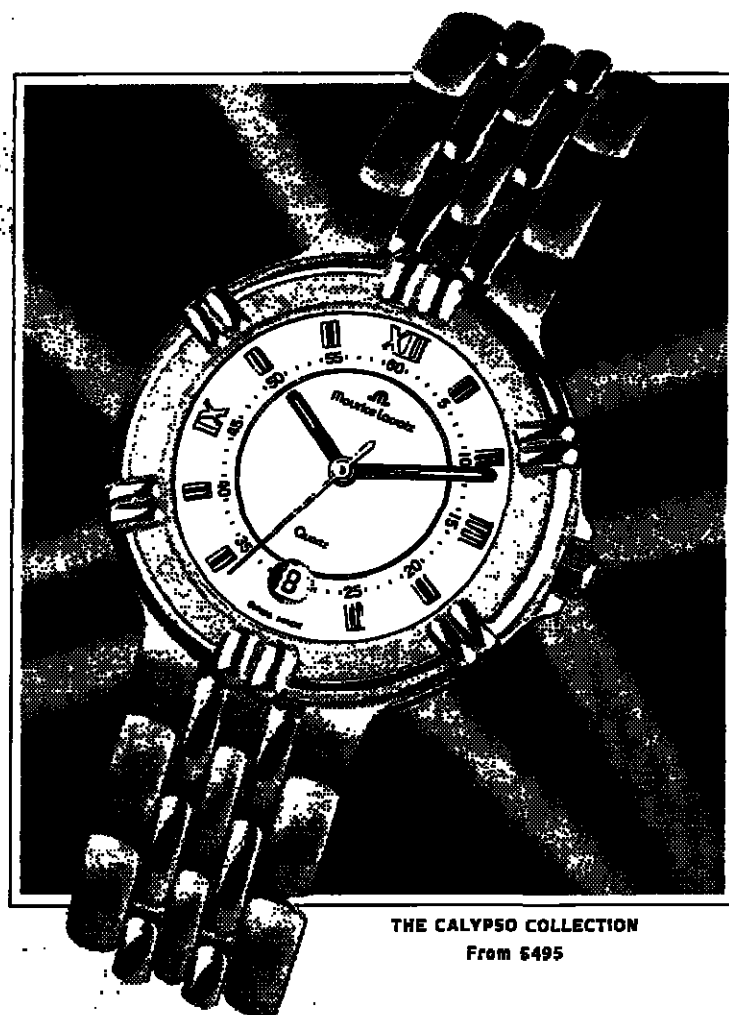
Last week police seized four Uzi sub-machine guns in the city and last night they staged a reconstruction of the fatal shooting on May 1 of David Ungi, 35, in an effort to track down his killer and bring to an end the reprisal attacks. Ungi, an unemployed father of three, was killed as he drove through Toxteth.

Police and community observers say the gang rivalry is not based on race or drugs. A police spokesman said: "There is no single factor behind the violence, there is a whole range of factors which have to be taken into account. Gangs have several interests. It would be foolish and wrong to pinpoint single issues."

There were three further shooting incidents in Merseyside at the weekend, with one man being murdered. Police said two of the shootings, including the murder, were not connected with the Ungi killing.

The dispute may have begun when Ungi was banned from a bar in the hands of the rival gang. Soon after he was killed, six houses in Halewood were sprayed with bullets. A few days later shots were fired in a Toxteth pub and a man was shot in the hand at a gym.

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Lyell studies case of Polish emigré

Britain's first war crimes trial could start next year

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S first war crimes trial could be held at the Old Bailey early next year. Scotland Yard detectives are taking final statements from witnesses and victims as Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, studies files on a former Polish citizen.

Siemion Serafinowicz, 83, could be the first person to be tried under the War Crimes Act passed in 1991. Accused of being commander of a brutal paramilitary police battalion deployed by the Germans in southern Russia, he is one of seven suspects whose cases have been sent to Sir Nicholas by the team set up to investigate allegations.

Yesterday the Crown Prosecution Service confirmed that files had been sent to Sir Nicholas but said no decision had been taken. Under the 1991 Act, the Attorney-General has to approve charges; he has been studying files since the end of last year. In the



Serafinowicz denial

Commons Sir Nicholas was asked about the progress of the unit and possible charges.

"Any prosecution in relation to war crimes will be taken on proper principles," he said. "But of course it will have regard to the will of the House expressed in the War Crimes Act, which would not cause the mere fact of 50 years' passage to be taken into

account in deciding not to prosecute."

He was replying to Toby Jessel, Tory MP for Twickenham, who called for an assurance that the CPS and police would not be inhibited by the passage of time.

All seven cases sent to Sir Nicholas have been examined by senior counsel and the Yard has sent a team to Israel to take fresh statements. Counsel have asked for a number of people to be interviewed again to bring the files to readiness for prosecutors.

Mr Serafinowicz has been accused of being in charge of 500 paramilitary police in the uniform of the Waffen SS. The battalion is alleged to have carried out mass executions of civilians, mainly Jews, in Belorussia. The alleged killings centred on Mir, about 100 miles from Minsk, and it is claimed the battalion invaded the area in 1941. At that time the area had about 4,000 Jews. Four years later only 30 had survived. According to Genya Robins, a Holocaust survivor

living in Britain, Mr Serafinowicz was directly involved in a massacre that led to the death of her family. Mr Serafinowicz's former deputy, Oswald Rufeisen, a half-Jewish officer who lives in Israel, says the officer presided over murder and torture.

Mr Serafinowicz moved to Britain in 1947 and became a carpenter. He has lived in Banstead, Surrey, with his wife Jadwiga for 29 years. Their son Kazimierz said yesterday that his father, who had repeatedly denied the allegations, had been advised not to comment.

During the war crimes investigations police looked at 396 cases and more than 250 people were cleared. The suspects were all British citizens in their seventies and eighties. They were among 200,000 East European refugees who moved to Britain after the war.

The future of the five detectives and lawyers still working in the war crimes unit will depend on whether prosecutions go ahead.



Tom Selvester, who said he felt "pure elation" when he realised he was holding Heinrich Himmler in 1945

Day Heinrich Himmler was unmasked

By JOHN YOUNG

THE captain in the Pioneer Corps could hardly believe his ears when the prisoner standing before him with a patch over one eye said: "Ich bin Heinrich Himmler." "I thought I had some kind of nutcase," Tom Selvester said yesterday. "But as soon as he took off the patch and put on spectacles, I knew I had my man."

Mr Selvester, an 86-year-old retired policeman from Edinburgh, was describing the moment, 50 years ago today, when he realised that he was holding the head of the Gestapo.

He was in command of a civilian interrogation camp near Lüneburg, south of Hamburg. On May 21, 1945, British soldiers had picked up three Germans at a bridge near Bremervörde. One of them wore an eyepatch and claimed to be a postman. He and his companions were questioned over the next 48 hours and, at about 2pm on May 23, Captain Selvester's men reported that the prisoners were causing trouble and demanding to see the officer in charge.

"The first man to enter was small and ill-looking, with a patch over one eye," he said yesterday. "The other two were tall, well-built and soldier-like." He ordered the trio to be separated, at which point the small man said he was Himmler.

"When I realised that here was the most wanted Nazi of them all, a feeling of pure elation spread through me. Here was the big fish in my net."

After his confession, Himmler was stripped and searched and two glass phials were discovered, one of which was empty. The searchers suspected that the capsule it had held was already in Himmler's mouth. After he was transferred to Army HQ at Lüneburg, Captain Jimmy Wells, a medical officer, asked him to open his mouth. But as he tried to remove it, Himmler bit hard and broke the capsule. Seeing what had happened, an Army sergeant exclaimed: "The bastard's beaten us."

Extermination of Jews began as blitzkrieg crushed Europe

Long before the first gas chamber was built, Hitler was implementing his Final Solution in occupied Poland, Belorussia and Ukraine, Nicholas Bethell writes

HITLER'S attempt to destroy the Jews is usually seen in terms of the gas chambers of Auschwitz and Treblinka. It should, however, be remembered that genocide was launched from the first months of the war, not in camps, but in the streets and fields of Poland, and then, after the June 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union, in Belorussia and Ukraine.

It was done not only by the SS and other criminal bodies, but also by units of the German army known as Einsatzgruppen, whose job it was to rid the Soviet Union of enemies, especially Jews and communists. It was done not only by Hitler's special units, but also by Stalin's NKVD.

As early as December 1939 the German occupying forces began killing Poland's most famous citizens, including the Speaker of the Sejm (Parliament), leaders of political parties, writers and sportsmen. They are buried in a national shrine at Palmiry, near Warsaw.

A form of genocide — the reduction of the Polish population to the level of serfs — was put into effect immediately. After 1939 Poles were not allowed to walk on the pavement, to wear felt hats, carry briefcases or make long-distance telephone calls. In other words, they could do nothing that raised the nation above its new role as servant of the German occupier.

On the other side of Hitler's and Stalin's partition line, the NKVD arrested and deported some two million Poles, people they regarded as "socially unreliable elements", which included the entire civil service, educated classes and bourgeoisie. They died in large numbers in the Siberian camps. Survivors were released in the second half of 1941.

In April 1940 some 15,000 leading Poles from the armed forces and police were shot by NKVD killing squads near Kalinin, Kharkov, and at Katyn, near Smolensk. This, too, was a form of genocide, in that Stalin's purpose was to deprive the Polish nation, to deprive it of its natural leaders, to prevent it rising again.

Meanwhile the Jews of Poland and other occupied countries were being herded into ghettos. In the summer of 1941, as Hitler's armies advanced quickly across Belorussia and Ukraine and into the Baltic States, the Einsatzgruppen followed.

with orders to "cleanse" the area of Jews and communists. It was done not with gas chambers but with machine guns, rifles and revolvers.

It is sometimes suggested that Nazi Germany's decision to exterminate all the Jews of Europe was taken at the Wannsee conference, near Berlin, in January 1942. In fact, measures akin to outright genocide were under way in the first months of occupation. For instance, the "Babi Yar" massacre of about 25,000 people, mainly Jews, as described by Yevgeny Yevtushenko's famous poem, took place in September 1941.

Jews and communists from towns, including Smolensk and Poltava, often denounced to the Germans by local people, were arrested en masse, taken out of town by truck to some convenient gully, mowed down and buried in trenches. It is raids such as these that Siemion Serafinowicz, "the Pole from Surrey", allegedly commanded.

In late 1941 Nazi forces began killing Jews and others in mobile gas chambers, but the change in method came about not because of any variation in German policy. At Wannsee the Final Solution was placed in the hands of the SS, who were to run the extermination camps. Reinhard Heydrich, deputy chief of the Gestapo, explained that there were still, in spite of the Einsatzgruppen's efforts, 11 million Jews in Europe, including five million in Russia, more than two million in Poland and 350,000 in Britain.

At these would have to be transferred to camps and put to work. Many would die, and the survivors would then have to be killed, especially since they would be the toughest of the enemy. They could not be allowed to become "the germ cell of a new Jewish development".

The extermination facilities at Auschwitz and Treblinka were set up because they offered the most effective means of killing in large numbers. The Einsatzgruppen had started to complain about their work, not out of squeamishness, but because of the energy it took to herd together and shoot the thousands of victims and dig their graves.

From 1942 onwards Wannsee provided these other means. It also transferred authority for the Final Solution from the Army to the SS, so making the Holocaust physically achievable and preventing its denial from becoming generally known.

By the time this happened, though, a huge number of Jews, Poles, Russians and other had already been done to death by men acting under the German Wehrmacht's direct command.

Lord Bethell is author of *Spies and Other Secrets*.

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Greenpeace activists prepared to remain on disused oil installation until October

High seas thwart attempt to board seized platform

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent, and Richard Duce

STORMY seas thwarted police and oil company attempts yesterday to board an obsolete North Sea platform occupied by Greenpeace activists. Shell UK, the platform owner, said that it would try again to take control of the hijacked installation 118 miles off the Shetlands.

Shell called up a semi-submersible vessel, *Stadive*, which is as large as a football field, to the base of the Brent Spar platform. Police, sheriff officers and Shell employees were on board, but 14ft swell and strong winds prevented a boarding. As the *Stadive* tried to manoeuvre into position the Greenpeace activists chained themselves to equipment on the platform. They say they will peacefully resist any effort to remove them.

Greenpeace boarded the 65,000-tonne platform three weeks ago in protest at the company's plans to sink it in the Atlantic. Some 30 of its members are now living on the installation.

Greenpeace says the Brent Spar contains more than 100 tonnes of toxic sludge — including arsenic, cadmium and lead — and more than 30 tonnes of radioactive waste from drilling operations. It says the plan to sink the structure contravenes two con-



Shell: platform owner

ventions outlawing the dumping at sea of man-made objects that could harm marine life. Chris Rose, on the Greenpeace boat *Moby Dick* monitoring the operation, said: "The *Stadive* is only about 35 metres from the Spar. The weather forecast is to remain this bad until Thursday. We're prepared to remain on the Spar until October."

Last week, a judge ordered one of the protesters occupying the Brent Spar to be ejected, but said he could do nothing about 11 others because he did not know their names. Lord Johnston, sitting at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, ordered Jonathan Castle, 44, the former captain of the sabotaged Greenpeace vessel *Rainbow Warrior*, to reveal the names of his fellow protesters aboard the Brent

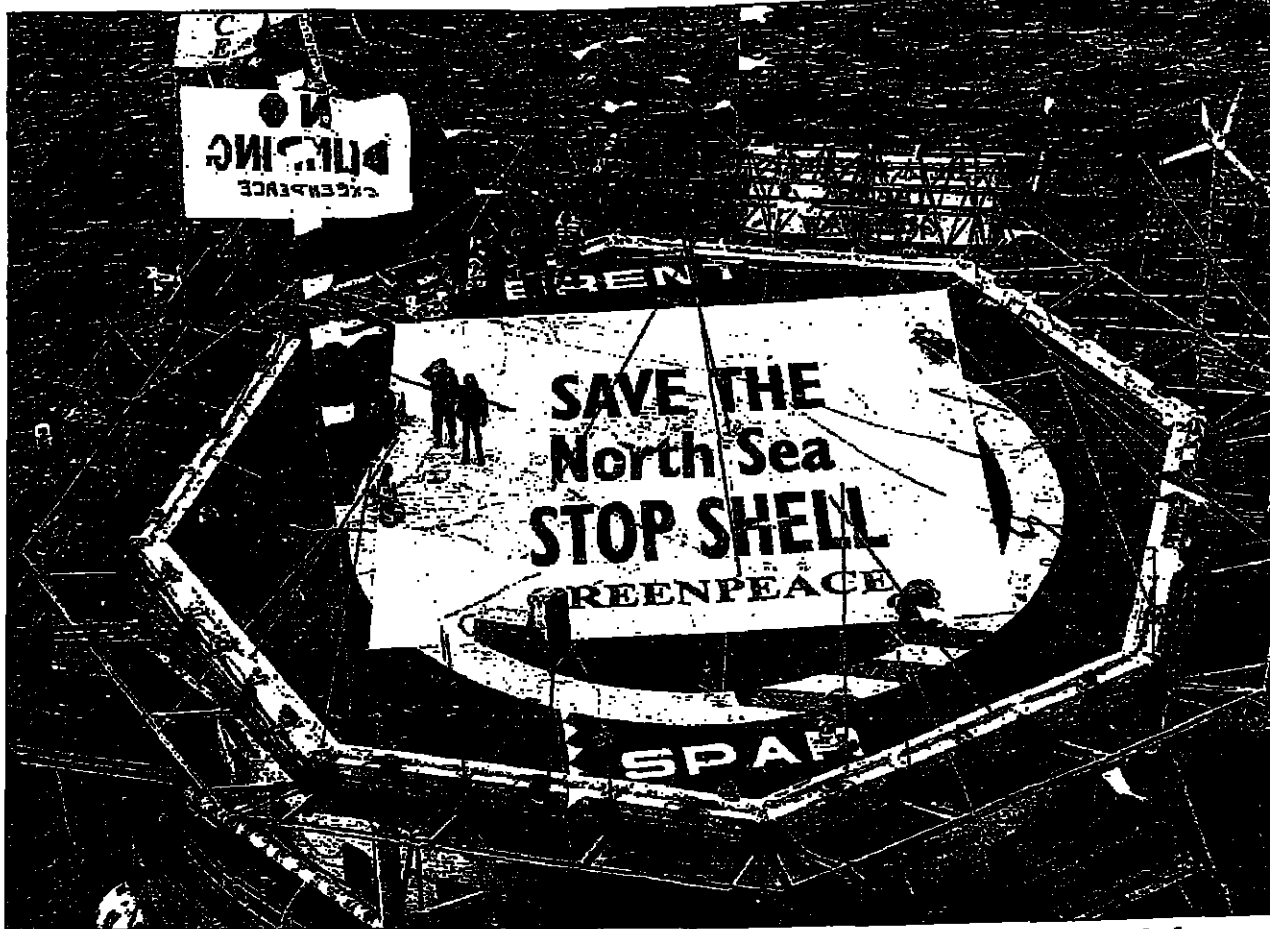
Spar so that Shell UK could obtain an order against them. Shell UK said: "Initial boarding of the installation from the *Stadive* was postponed on safety grounds due to strong winds and forecast worsening weather. The situation is being kept under review."

The company says it has cleaned out storage tanks and that any contaminants would be quickly diluted. It said the disposal complies with government regulations. "We have even removed light bulbs because they contain tiny amounts of mercury," a spokesman said.

Dr Tony Rice, of the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences, in Surrey, said the danger to the health of the Atlantic and the North Sea was negligible. "Greenpeace is exaggerating the case," he said. "As somebody with sympathy for the group, I find this irritating."

He said that Greenpeace was also being disingenuous about radiation fears. The radiation was naturally occurring and came from oil and sediment pumped on board during the platform's working life, he said.

Dr Rice, a deep-sea marine biologist, said it might be possible to dump most of the

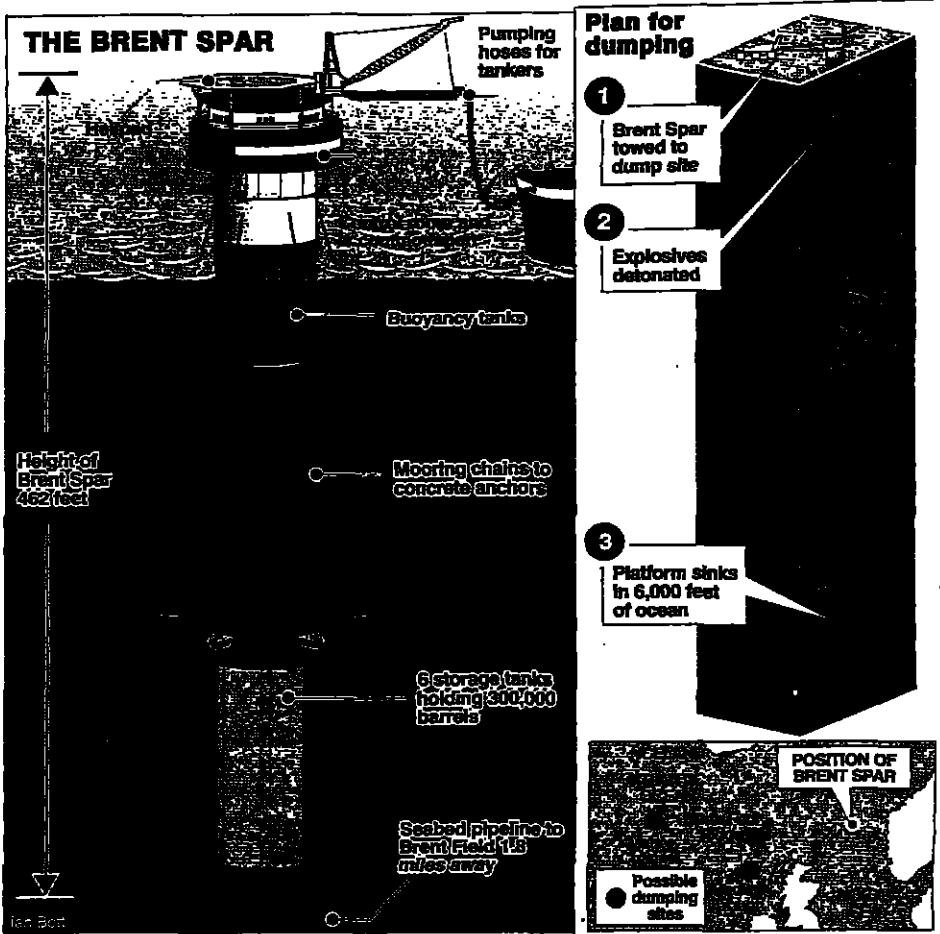


Greenpeace protesters on the disused Brent Spar yesterday. Shell said it will try again to retake the platform

North Sea's 400 oil and gas platforms at deep sea sites provided they were monitored to be sure they were not damaging deep sea currents or marine life.

Shell said that the costs of dismantling and recycling the platform were £46 million. The costs of deep sea disposal are estimated at £11 million.

Greenpeace is using the incident to raise its negotiating status at the North Sea conference in Denmark next month when eight nations discuss the success of a 10-year operation to cut pollution.



THE Brent Spar platform, which is 462ft tall, was once a linchpin in the development of the North Sea's Brent oilfield. (Nick Nuttall writes). The installation, sited 116 miles northeast of Lerwick in the Shetland Islands, stored 300,000 barrels of crude pumped in six underwater tanks. The oil was pumped into tankers moored alongside the platform for shipping to refineries worldwide.

The platform, which became operational in 1976, has become a victim of improved technology and the economics of pumping crude directly ashore. It was decommissioned in 1991 and its tanks are now full of air and seawater.

The deep-sea disposal involves towing the 15,500-tonne platform with tugs to one of three 6,000ft-deep sites in the North Atlantic: the North Feni Ridge, the Rockall Trough or the Maudy Channel. Shell is believed to have chosen the Feni site, which is about 150 miles northwest of Lerwick.

Farmers divided over livestock campaign

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

A RIFT emerged within the farming community yesterday over the launch of a body seeking public support for the export of livestock, which is under attack from animal rights activists for alleged cruelty.

List — the Livestock Industry Support Trust — a coalition of road hauliers, auctioneers and cattle and sheep farmers and breeders unveiled plans for a "campaign of public education" to counter what it sees as unfair animal welfare propaganda. Roland Kershaw-Dalby, its chief spokesman and secretary of the National Cattle Breeders' Association, said: "The industry is under threat from a combination of genuinely concerned people and those with a long-term agenda to destroy farming in this country."

"Cattle and sheep have been moved round by lorry since motor transport began. We believe that the attempts to physically stop animal exports strike at far more than agriculture. It would be an outrage if those going about their lawful business were prevented from doing so by a mob."

But the National Farmers' Union showed little enthusiasm for the new body yesterday. The union fears the initiative could do more harm at a time when adverse publicity over live exports has begun to wane. Sir David Naish, its president, said: "The last thing I would want to do is to wind up public opinion again on this issue and get embroiled in an unnecessarily confrontational debate."

The union has observer status on the new trust's council but has declined full membership and offered no financial support. By contrast, the Farmers' Union of Wales, whose members are heavily dependent on the livestock trade, has given full backing.

John Phillips, its vice-president, said: "We are fed up with our industry being attacked by a bunch of do-gooders who do not understand about life in the countryside. The disruption of calf exports has reduced the income of dairy farmers by an average of £3,000."

The NFU, meanwhile, yesterday launched its own scheme to win public support with a series of "open days" this summer on some 600 farms across England and Wales. Sir David said: "There is a real lack of public awareness of what goes on in the countryside and what actually happens on a farm. We hope these open days will promote a much greater understanding of how our food is produced."

Alpine climbers led assault on rusting North Sea hulk

GREENPEACE

The conservationists recruited specialist climbers

FOUR experienced Alpine climbers from Germany, Austria and Switzerland carried out the initial occupation of the Brent Spar (Richard Duce writes). Recruited to secure control of the rusting structure, they were aided by clear skies and calm seas.

They were followed by six men and women who furnished other activists to follow with the 20 tons of supplies and equipment needed to see them through to the autumn.

The £750,000 operation was orchestrated from a small, rented office in Lerwick after Greenpeace received information that Shell was planning to sink the platform in the deep waters of the North Atlantic this month.

A long-range weather forecast predicted that April 30 would present a window before bad weather closed in around the platform. The Danish registered *Embla*, chartered by the conservation-

ists, left Hamburg at 4am on April 28, laden with supplies and carrying the four volunteer mountaineers, to rendezvous with the Greenpeace vessel *Moby Dick*. The latter had set sail from Lerwick at 8pm on April 29 with the other members of the so-called action team.

At midday on Sunday, April 30, the rendezvous was made to the north of the Brent Spar on a calm sea. The mountaineers, taken to the platform by inflatable raft, rapidly scaled the structure and set up a system of winches to take up the supplies. The 30 Greenpeace activists still in occupation now have access to two five-kilowatt generators, a satellite communication system and enough food and water to

supply them for five months. Equipment was also taken on board to protect them from oil sludge waste. They live a spartan existence in the former accommodation deck of the 20-year-old installation abandoned by Shell four years ago. There is neither heating nor air conditioning.

On top of the platform's bright yellow crane derrick flutters a flag bearing the message "Save our Seas". Below, the Greenpeace members of the multinational occupation force live surrounded by cardboard boxes full of oranges, cartons of apple juice and sacks of beans.

Fresh supplies are taken in by Anita and Ann-Turi, two expert speedboat pilots from Trondheim in Norway, who

double up as crew members on the *Moby Dick*. They skim their inflatable across the water and manoeuvre under the platform's protruding C-deck, where six giant anchor chains fixed to 1,000-tonne concrete blocks hold the platform in place.

The helideck is covered with rubbish to make a helicopter landing impossible. The occupants have a pile of handcuffs to lock themselves to the structure if and when the authorities manage to board.

The maritime squatters are of many European nationalities. Their leader is Jon Castle, 44, who was born in Guernsey and was the former captain of the sabotaged Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior*. He said: "It's nice to hit one of the multinationals which has a big public image and tries to pretend it is being responsible about the environment when all the time it is lying through its teeth."

Ken Russell shows Lady C uncut

FROM DALYA ALBERGE IN CANNES

KEN RUSSELL has reworked his adaptation of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* to include erotic scenes that were censored from its BBC screening in 1993.

The film, starring Joely Richardson, daughter of Vanessa Redgrave, and Sean Bean, was originally shown in four parts and drew an audience of 16 million when it was shown on television.

CineFin Corporation, a production and distribution company based in Los Angeles and Paris, is offering the film at the Cannes Film Festival. David Lowe, its president, said: "This is not a sex movie. It is still a quality BBC movie." He added that the cuts transform it from an "English" film into a racy Hollywood one.

"The bits Ken Russell wanted in can go in. He was thrilled that the director's cut could be done."

Its explicit sex scenes — even in the final version that was screened by the BBC — were criticised by the Broadcasting Standards Council, which had received many complaints. The BBC argued that the erotic scenes had to be included to do justice to the book.

Lady Chatterley's Lover was originally a three-hour film. Mr Russell has condensed it to a two-hour film, removing Greenpeace scenes and inserting those that were cut.

The grizzled enigma of British cinema has done battle with the censors on at least one other occasion. His 1971 film, *The Devils*, was trimmed under pressure from British censors. His films on

cinema censorship. It will be shown in the cut version screened in cinemas as part of a BBC special called *The Forbidden Weekend*.

The two-part series will also show scenes from *A Clockwork Orange*, which Stanley Kubrick, its director, withdrew from cinemas because it had been said to inspire violence.

Extracts from *Natural Born Killers*, the demonic possession film *The Exorcist*, Marlon Brando's steamy *Last Tango in Paris*, and *Straw Dogs*, condemned at the time for its violence, are also to be shown.

A BBC spokeswoman said: "All films will go out with an on-air warning and they will be shown late at night. People are not going to turn on their TV sets and just stumble across these films."



Russell: his version

Mahler, Tchaikovsky, Liszt and other composers were criticised for their psychological sensationalism but drew a wide following.

□ Russell's *The Devils* will be screened by the BBC over the May Bank Holiday weekend as part of a special on

Diary tells of life under Iron Duke

By Alan Hamilton and John Vincent

THE history of the Peninsular War was recorded by the successful commander, the Duke of Wellington. But until today few have read an account of the campaign as seen by Corporal John Parker, a humble soldier of the 20th Foot.

Parker, who unusually among the common soldiery could read and write, if imperfectly, kept a diary of his 20 years in the colours. Hidden in an attic and virtually unread for 150 years, it is expected to fetch more than £5,000 when it is sold at Bonhams, the London auctioneers, today.

From engaging the enemy at the Battle of Roncevaux on July 25, 1813, to guarding



Wellington: victorious

the defeated Napoleon on St Helena, Parker chronicled life in the ranks. His leather-bound diary contains 60 pages of scrawly cursive.

Born a labourer's son in the Norfolk village of North

Elmhurst, Parker enlisted in 1808 and ended up as a Chelsea Pensioner in 1828, at the ripe old age of 38 having been discharged because of a chronic liver complaint.

At the Battle of Roncevaux he records: "You our wounded that was left behind the French behaved very well for we had no way of getting them along with us as we had to retreat through the wood that night and to hear the wolves when they got the smell of human blood. We were sorrowed to leave them but there was no help for it as we had to save our lives."

Of the Battle of Pamplona on a foggy July 29, 1813, he writes of burning the dead and carrying the wounded through hills and valleys to a

town two miles away. In August of the same year he writes of being with a party that stormed San Sebastian with orders to kill every man, woman and child "at the point of the bayonet". The town was in fact deserted, except for "a few old decrepit men and women who were treated very badly". Brandy supplies were looted and the town set alight.

Writing of his days guarding Napoleon on St Helena in 1819, Parker recalls: "Longwood House is where Bonaparte resides in an old decayed place. I have seen in almost every day. The time I was doing duty over him there was a Palace built but he never went into it. He died before it was properly ready for him."

THE TIMES An evening with Baroness Thatcher



To mark the publication of her second volume of memoirs, *The Path to Power*, *The Times*, in co-operation with Dillons, invites readers to an evening with Lady Thatcher. Following the success of her first *Times/Dillons* forum, when she spoke about *The Downing Street Years*, Lady Thatcher will now turn her attention to the years leading up to her premiership. She will discuss her childhood in Grantham, the profound influence of her father, her marriage to Denis, her early career as a politician and her determined rise to power. She will also give characteristically forthright opinions on some of the century's leading political figures. The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and will offer those attending the opportunity to question Lady Thatcher.

The forum will be held at Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1 on Tuesday, June 13 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 each (concessions, £7.50) and are available by ringing 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-580 7680, or by sending it, with your remittance, to Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1, where tickets can also be purchased.

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B/C 382

Worker on £40,000 wins legal aid after taking unpaid leave

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

AN ENGINEER earning £40,000 a year was awarded legal aid within weeks of taking temporary unpaid leave from his job.

The granting of aid to Kassim Mohamed Bacchus in a divorce dispute was criticised yesterday by the High Court judge hearing his case, who ordered that a report be sent to the Lord Chancellor. Mr Justice Wilson said judges should be allowed to withdraw public funds from underserving litigants, a power they lost 14 years ago.

Mr Bacchus, a Guyanese working for a firm in London, took unpaid leave on March 17 to prepare for the High Court case. He applied for legal aid on March 25.

He said in his application that he was unemployed because of the stress of the pending court action. Mr Justice Wilson said no indication was given that his income "would start to flow again on about May 15" when his leave ended. He has run up a legal bill estimated at £12,846. The family division judge took the

unusual step of making his comments in public after hearing the case in private last week. He was especially critical of the Legal Aid Board, which had refused to reconsider the man's legal aid certificate after being told he was once more in employment. Mr Bacchus was earning just under £40,000 a year and had a company car.

The judge said that when the legal aid authorities were told, they replied: "At the time the assisted person applied for legal aid, we were aware he was not working. Unless there is any evidence of wrongdoing or any information concerning him taking unpaid leave just to obtain legal aid, we are not prepared to put a stop to his certificate."

Mr Justice Wilson asked: "Can it be the case, therefore, that someone who is not entitled to legal aid can become entitled to it by taking unpaid leave from work for eight weeks in order to prepare for the hearing?" That, he said, would be absurd. He considered that Mr Bacchus

had misled the authorities into assuming that there was no reasonable expectation of his receiving income during the coming year.

"There now arises the most perplexing question of all: why did the legal aid authorities allow the husband's legal aid to continue, even after, at my instigation, the true facts had been disclosed? ... I find the terms of their response profoundly unsatisfactory."

Before 1981 courts had the power to revoke or discharge civil legal aid certificates and there could now be an argument for rearming courts with this power, he said. "There is something distasteful about the prospect of a judge depriving a litigant of his advocate. But if the legal aid authorities are not able to respond properly and promptly to a court's reference of apparent misuse of funds entrusted to them, it would, in my view, be in the public interest for that power to be restored to the court."

Lawyers for the Legal Aid Board said there would be a full investigation.



James Hamill with bees from his shop in Battersea, south London, where he keeps an observation hive

Beekeeper starts quest to save hives

By ALAN HAMILTON

JAMES HAMILL, actor-cum-apiculturist, has been awarded a £6,000 grant by the Royal Warrant Holders' Association to travel the world in search of a cure for the disease that threatens to wipe out Britain's wild honeybees.

The warrant holders, a group of suppliers who provide the Royal Household with every necessity of life and who are entitled to call themselves "By appointment", make annual awards to help to encourage the survival of traditional skills and trades. Since 1992

British bees have been under attack from the varroa mite, which destroys entire colonies. Imported from Asia, the disease first struck hives in Kent and has now spread to most of the country except for areas of Scotland and Wales.

A chemical spray treatment is available, but it costs £10 per hive and causes concern among beekeepers, who appreciate how environmentally sensitive an insect is the bee.

Mr Hamill, 36, a native of California who has lived in England for 15 years, sells the produce of his hundred hives spread across south London and Surrey

at his shop in Battersea. He is one of the country's acknowledged experts on beekeeping. "I would like to find a natural cure for the varroa mite, perhaps using herbs," he said.

Mr Hamill will travel to North America, Australia and New Zealand to study how they control pests. "The disease threatens to destroy all Britain's wild bee colonies, and it is up to beekeepers to rebuild the population." He has a doomsday scenario, that if bees were wiped out, mankind could survive for only 60 more years, such would be the disruption to the food chain.

Scientists on trail of new TB vaccine

An improved vaccine against TB could result from research at the University of Surrey. A team led by Dr Jeremy Dale has developed a way of disabling the bacterium that causes TB, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, by selectively knocking out specific genes.

The idea, reported to the American Society for Microbiology in Washington DC yesterday, is to produce a disabled bacterium that could be used as a vaccine, since it would mimic the bacterium without causing the disease. TB kills an estimated three million people a year and 1.7 billion carry the bacterium.

Family buried

Joy Senior and her children — Kuris, 7, Cherelle, 5, and Clinton, 3 — whom she stabbed to death at their home at Thetford, Norfolk, two weeks ago, were buried yesterday. Mrs Senior, 28, believed to have a mental disorder, drowned herself in a woodland pond.

Village on move

The first of 450 residents of Arkwright, Derbyshire, where methane gas is seeping into houses, have been transferred to a £24 million purpose-built village half a mile away. Their old houses will be demolished to make way for an open-cast coal mine.

Foul play

Vandals twice used a mechanical digger to cause more than £5,000 of damage to Oxford City Football Club's ground at the weekend. They wrecked fencing, seats, churned up a 10ft area of the pitch, demolished a dug-out and smashed holes in the back of a stand.

Fewer sex calls

The number of premium rate calls fell from six million a week in 1993 to 4.6 million a week last year. The drop was blamed on a sharp fall in telephone sex lines. For every 100 calls to 0998 sex lines in 1993 there were three last year, the industry regulator said.

Player fined

The Arsenal footballer Ray Parlour was fined £170 by magistrates in Hong Kong yesterday for assaulting a taxi driver after an all-night party. Parlour, 22, pleaded guilty to punching Lai Pak-yan on the last stop of Arsenal's tour of the Far East.

Trailer death

A woman was killed when a burger bar on a trailer broke free from a car as it went over a hump-backed bridge and rolled onto the pavement in Witham, Essex. Deborah White, 30, who suffered multiple injuries, had just taken her two daughters to school.

Islanders reverse verdict on quarry

THE people of Harris on the Isle of Lewis have overturned a vote two years ago to support the £70 million coastal superquarry planned for Lingerbay.

In an 83 per cent poll, 68 per cent of local people voted against the project. In a 1993 referendum, just before the Western Isles Council approved the development, 62 per cent of votes were in favour.

Redlands Aggregates hopes to extract 600 million tonnes of anorthosite, used for road-building, from a National Scenic Area. Conservationists claim the giant hole would be visible from Space.

Norman Macdonald, councillor for the Obbe ward, which covers Lingerbay, said: "I am delighted with the result. People obviously are worried about the effects the quarry would have on other industries, particularly the fishing industry."

Two weeks ago the council said it would reappraise its policy on the project in the light of the new referendum. Councillors will consider the result next month.

The public inquiry, which has heard 76 days of evidence, will resume next Monday in Leverburgh in Harris to hear closing submissions.

Council shepherd loses sheepdogs

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE two collies of a council shepherd whose job is to keep sheep from straying off the Welsh hillsides into back gardens and town centres have been made redundant.

Kevin Jackson's title was changed to "animal litter warden" and then the weekly £7 payment for his sheepdogs' food was stopped by cost-cutting officials of Torfaen Borough Council in Pontypool, Gwent. Mr Jackson, 31, has to leave Bron and Tweed at home and round up stray sheep on his own.

The cutback came to light when John Cunningham, a council member, spotted Mr Jackson herding sheep single-handed on a road. "It was impossible. I asked him

where his dogs were and he explained the council had barred him from using them. How the devil is a shepherd supposed to catch sheep without a dog?" Mr Cunningham is due to raise the matter at a council meeting tonight.

Mr Jackson took over the job last year from his father John, who was the council shepherd for 25 years. John said yesterday: "It's crazy — you can't separate a shepherd from his dog."

A spokesman for the council said: "The animal shepherd's duties will spread further than just sheep. But we will discuss it further and we may well buy our own sheepdog, which would be cheaper in the long run."

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TOKEN TWENTY ONE

Vulnerable Tories remain one jump behind Blair's new Labour

The intellectual victory of capitalism and liberal democracy over the past decade has presented as many problems for the parties of the Right as the Left. That is not what Douglas Hurd meant to say last night in his Conservative Political Centre lecture on the theme "Still No Answers on the Left". But his speech was really about the predicament of the Right as of the Left.

Mr Hurd is far too much of a Tory to believe in the end of history. Yet the rejection of state ownership, of the planned economy and of the primary of collective



ON POLITICS

over individual rights has changed the terms of the political debate. As Mr Hurd pointed out in the Butler lecture last Tuesday, it is no good just saying "we've won, since, as happens when you win, people forget that there was ever a battle". Labour itself has adjusted. Recent speeches, culminating in last night's Maitland lecture by Tony Blair, underline how far Labour has changed its economic thinking, not only on the priority of containing inflation but also in recognising "a

much narrower range of options than before" on taxation and spending. It is hard to imagine any previous Labour leader delivering such a lecture, and saying: "It is not possible for Britain to sustain budget deficits or a tax regime that are wildly out of line with other major industrial countries. One of the requirements of our tax structure is to attract enterprise into the UK from overseas".

Mr Hurd has conceded that Labour's changes have created "big problems" for the Tories. His response has been a nautical metaphor — if Labour tries to board our ship and say the ship is

ours, "do we actually take to the boats ourselves and row off into the Great Blue Yonder, hoping that some other ship will come into sight? Or do we repel boarders and say this is our ship; we know how to sail it; we know its destination; and please leave our ship or be thrown into the sea?" Mr Hurd prefers the latter, questioning whether the Left is merely paying lip service to economic efficiency, value for money and a flourishing private sector, and asking whether its sums add up. Mr Hurd argues that only parties of the Centre-Right are prepared to take tough decisions about welfare spending

in face of the special pleading of interest groups.

Such hand-to-hand engagements are much harder for a crew which has been in charge for 16 years, especially as voters take earlier victories for granted. Party differences are blurred. In other contexts, Mr Hurd has noted the extent to which earlier Tory Governments took forward social changes introduced by the Liberals or Labour, "civilising them and making them practical". The same could now be happening in reverse. Mr Blair is not seeking to overturn Thatcherism, but to remedy its flaws in public services and

training. The Tory Right, taking "the clear blue water" view, argues that not only is the Left's conversion to free markets hollow but that the Tories' agenda is unfinished. The Right stresses how high the burden of taxation and spending still is. Consequently, the need for a further onslaught on the State is the main theme of Alan Duncan and Dominic Hobson's new book, *Satan's Children*, and, in a more restrained form, runs through John Patten's *Things to Come*. By contrast, Mr Hurd does not believe in cutting income tax for its own sake, but only as circumstances permit.

The real debate now is not about the merits of what happened in the 1980s, but about how to take forward the policy changes of that era. Mr Blair has jumped ahead of the Tories, Mr Hurd has identified the ways in which Labour is vulnerable. They have to decide whether they want to offer "a civilised" version of Thatcherism, which might be dubbed Majorism, or whether they want to make another big leap. But, then, Mr Hurd has never favoured permanent revolutions.

PETER RIDDELL

Press accused of distortion in quoting from memoirs

Thatcher denies claims of personal attack on Major

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS THATCHER moved yesterday to kill speculation that she was encouraging a leadership challenge to John Major amid renewed Cabinet feuding over her outspoken criticism of his record and policies.

She issued a statement saying that a key sentence in her forthcoming memoirs, *The Path to Power*, had been "seriously distorted" in press reports. She also issued the text of the relevant paragraphs from her book showing that when she wrote of the need for "others to take the action required" she was referring to changes of policy, not personnel, and was ruling out any hint of a personal political comeback.

Her friends underlined that message last night, saying that she while she wanted the Government to return to the true Tory path, she also wanted Mr Major to remain at the helm, not least because Michael Heseltine was the only realistic alternative. "She cannot tolerate the thought of Heseltine as leader," one insider said.

Her supporters were also scathing about the way senior Tories, led by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had rushed to denounce her. But in the eyes of government loyalists Lady Thatcher's efforts to steady the Tory ship were not helped by her failure to offer any public



Thatcher: friends say she wants Major at the helm

support to the Prime Minister or to challenge other reports of her disenchantment with him.

She tried to set the record straight as Michael Heseltine and Michael Portillo — the front-runners to succeed Mr Major if a vacancy arose — offered differing verdicts on her 11½ years in power. Mr Portillo, standard-bearer of the Right, praised Lady Thatcher, saying that she had a flair for seeing things at the grassroots and knowing what was on people's minds. He also suggested that the policy differences between her and Mr Major were being exaggerated and urged his party to accept criticism from such a notable figure.

"I just do not believe that Mrs Thatcher is attacking the leadership of John Major. She

is concerned with policy, but I don't think the policies are different as people have made out either."

"Mrs Thatcher famously said towards the end of her premiership about Europe, no, no, no. Of course the Prime Minister in January was saying his position was no to any change on qualified majority voting, no to giving up the veto, no to the single currency in the near future, and no to extra powers to the European Parliament."

But Mr Heseltine said that people appeared to have forgotten that at the time she left Downing Street in 1990, she was unpopular and heading for electoral defeat. Mr Major's decision to scrap the poll tax had been right, he said. He also suggested that Lady Thatcher was repudiating many of the European policies she had pursued when she was in power.

In the extracts, Lady Thatcher said Mr Major should take a firmer line on Europe — resisting all moves towards a single currency. She described European policy as one of "compromise, sweep it under the carpet, leave it for another day, in the hope that people of Britain will not notice what is happening to them, how the powers have been slipping away."

Asked on BBC radio if Lady Thatcher's calling for a U-turn

over European policy was a reversal of her record in office, Mr Heseltine said: "I do think that is broadly all you can say. When we went into the ERM, Mrs Thatcher was Prime Minister, and I think that when history is written, the rate at which we went in — some would say too high — was very much Mrs Thatcher's personal view."

John Carlisle, Tory MP for Luton North, said that Lady Thatcher was speaking for 70 per cent of the party and was "a folk hero" for some Tory MPs. She had given Mr Major an agenda he could enthusiastically embrace.

The statement issued by Lady Thatcher's office said: "The meaning of one particular sentence from *The Path to Power* quoted in newspapers has been seriously distorted because its full context was not given."

"The sentence is: 'It is now, however, for others to take the action required.' We now release the full passage as it appears in the book. This shows that Lady Thatcher is here referring to developments in the West as a whole, not just Britain. It also shows that Lady Thatcher is ruling herself out of the long-term task of taking the action needed to deal with the problems she outlines."

Woodrow Wyatt, page 16



Sir Jerry Wiggin arriving to make his statement to MPs

Wiggin is jeered as he delivers apology to MPs

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

SIR JERRY WIGGIN apologised to fellow Tory MP Sebastian Coe yesterday for using his name to table an amendment to a Bill. He said that his action was "at odds with the proper expectations of the House."

In a statement to the House of Commons, interrupted by Labour jeers, Sir Jerry, MP for Weston-super-Mare, said: "I wish unreservedly to apologise to the honourable member for Falmouth and Camborne and this House for having tabled amendments to a [Gas] Bill in standing committee in his name and without his knowledge or consent."

Sir Jerry said: "I act as parliamentary adviser to the British Holiday and Home Parks Association, a fact which is declared in the Register of Members' Interests and of which my honourable friend is aware."

"I thought he would be supportive of the amendments so I wrote to him and we spoke the following day. As soon as he informed me he was not willing to move them, I apologised to him and withdrew the amendments from the standing committee's order paper." He added: "They never came before the committee."

As Labour backbenchers called for his suspension, Sir Jerry added: "Nevertheless I repeat my apologies to the House and to him for an action which I acknowledge

was at odds with the proper expectations of the House."

He insisted he had not meant to deceive MPs. "I accept the amendments would have benefited the association for which I act as parliamentary adviser. My purpose in putting amendments down in the name of a member of the standing committee was, however, to improve their chances of being considered. There was no intention to deceive."

As Labour MPs shouted: "Is that it?" Sir Jerry sat down. Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, in a brief statement, replied: "Whatever the structures and procedures we have in this House, we cannot legislate for integrity and individual members should act in such a manner whereby their integrity is not called into question."

"I trust this is the last distasteful occasion on which the Speaker is obliged to inquire into the conduct of an honourable member."

Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, noted that two Tories had been suspended for ten and 20 days for being prepared to accept cash for tabling questions. By contrast Sir Jerry had "got away with murder" by only making a personal statement.

David Winnick (Lab Walsall N) said that if this was the end of the affair, "many, many people outside this House will simply not be able to understand the position."

British opt-out 'benefits Europe'

By NICHOLAS WOOD

THE rest of Europe is benefiting from Britain's opt-out from the social chapter, Michael Portillo declared yesterday as the Tory Right renewed its assault on closer European integration.

The Employment Secretary said that other member states were drawing back from the "worst excesses" of the social chapter because they did not want to give British firms too great a competitive edge. "Britain has not only saved herself from greater burdens on business. We have saved Europe from taking further steps to hobble her own competitiveness."

His remarks came as he condemned the "horror" of the European Union's works council directive, which requires big firms to set up machinery for consulting and informing their workers. Britain is not bound by the directive because Mr Portillo invoked the opt-out when it was approved by other member states in September.

His latest broadside at Brussels coincided with another outspoken attack on European federalism by Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor. Speaking in Paris, he warned that the "obsessive and bureaucratic" activities of the European Commission risked driving Britain to the fringes of the Community, if not beyond.

The Eurosceptic tide was running strongly in Britain because people increasingly recognised that the country's independence was being eroded by the expansion of European institutions, he said. Moves to strengthen the European Parliament, extend majority voting in the council of ministers and devise a common foreign policy were "the road leading to the extinction of the nation state."

Nor could Britain join an inner core of EU states committed to much closer integration. The price in terms of loss of national independence was too high.

Labour urged to match Lib Dems' rail stance

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY ASHDOWN raised the stakes in the Perth and Kinross by-election campaign last night by challenging Labour to match his pledge to buy back a majority stake in Railtrack.

At a rally in Perth, the Liberal Democrat leader announced that his party would buy back 51 per cent of the shares in Railtrack — if privatisation goes ahead — at either the issue price or the market price, whichever was cheaper. The money — an estimated £200 million over five to six years — would be repaid through borrowing over a lifetime of a Parliament. "Now here's the challenge to Labour. Match it. Stop hiding behind generalisations. This is not the time to be running scared," he said. "If you will make the same commitment as we have, we can stop privatisation dead in its tracks."

Mr Ashdown, speaking in support of his candidate, Veronica Linklater, went on: "Unlike the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats give more than cosy public relations glow. Unlike the Labour Par-



Ashdown: wants public ownership of Railtrack

ty, we won't just criticise the Government for its plans for destructive privatisation of the rail network. We will guarantee that if privatisation goes ahead, we will put our rail infrastructure back under public control."

His challenge follows the Liberal Democrats' decision to focus their attack on Labour in an attempt to woo disaffected Tory voters in Perth and Kinross. All four main parties yesterday stepped up their efforts to attract the 30 per cent

of the electorate still said to be undecided.

But a bruised John Godfrey, the Tory candidate, appeared to be doing his best to avoid meeting any voters. Mr Godfrey chose a tiny shopping centre on a rundown industrial estate, just north of Perth, for his first walkabout yesterday morning. The three shops, protected by sheets of corrugated iron, were almost empty and could hardly be described as traditional Tory territory.

After lunch he was spotted canvassing in a street of smart detached houses and big gardens, but ten minutes later he decided to call it day, having found practically no Tory support.

According to a System Three poll published today by the *Glasgow Herald* the SNP is on course for a comfortable victory. It shows that 52 per cent of the electorate said they would vote for the nationalist candidate, Roseanna Cunningham. Labour is in second place on 23 per cent while the Tories are on 15 per cent and the Liberal Democrats on 9 per cent.

Peers decry pupils' ignorance

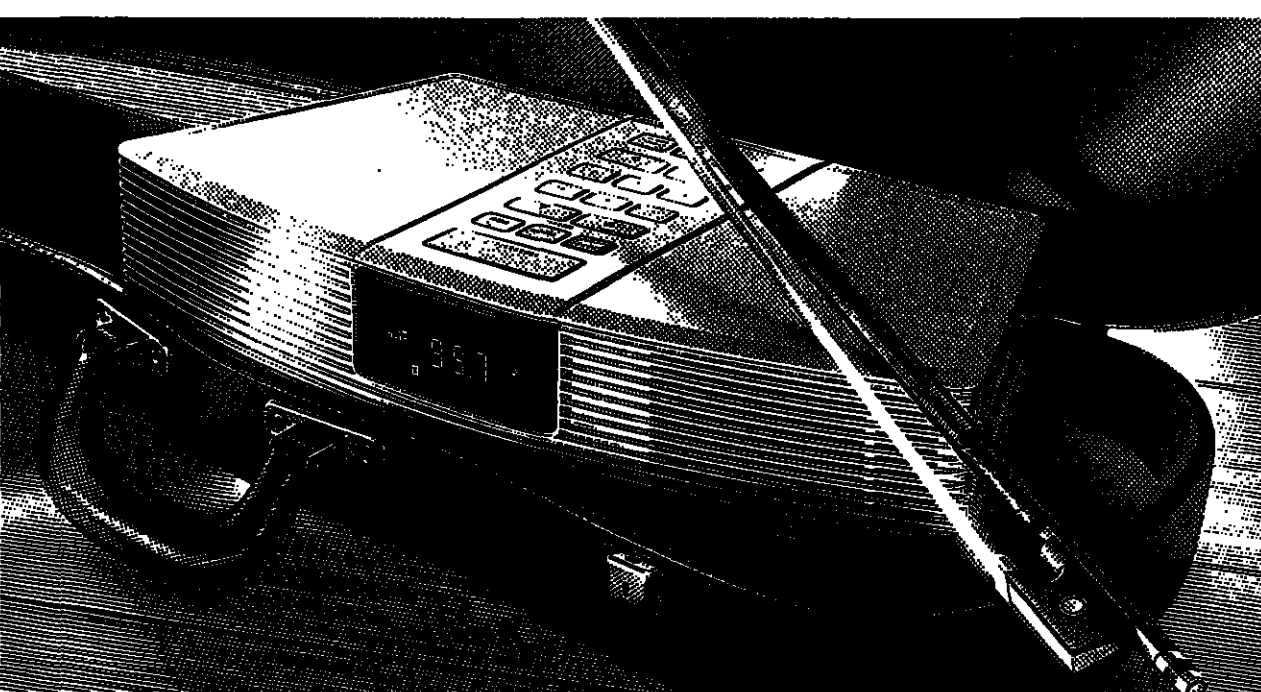
CHILDREN'S ignorance about key events and personalities in British history meant they could not appreciate the "basic freedoms" they now enjoyed, the Government was told yesterday.

Baroness Cox (Con) highlighted a recent survey which showed that one third of

pupils aged 11 to 14 did not know who Sir Winston Churchill was and two thirds were ignorant of the Holocaust. She told the Lords: "We clearly have failed to give a large number of our children a proper historical understanding of recent events."

Lord Lucas of Crudwell, for

the Government, insisted that Churchill and the Holocaust were clearly covered in the new National Curriculum. He welcomed a call by Lord Annan (Ind) that children should be made to learn the dates of the Kings of England to give them a perspective of the panorama of history.



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Arafat secures reprieve for Arab areas around Holy City

Rabin backs down over Jerusalem land seizure

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE ISRAELI Government yesterday uncharacteristically bowed to Arab pressure and suspended a plan to seize 133 acres of mainly Palestinian land in annexed east Jerusalem minutes before a Knesset vote of no-confidence threatened to bring down the Labour-led coalition.

The unexpected climbdown infuriated the Israeli Right, which accused the Government of Yitzhak Rabin of surrendering to Yasser Arafat. The Palestine Liberation Organisation leader had met Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, in Gaza only three hours earlier.

It was the second time this month that Israel's expansionist land policies in conquered territory have had to be abandoned. Similar plans to seize Vatican-owned land in the occupied West Bank for a new road to a Jewish settlement were also scrapped after protests from Rome.

Israel had previously refused to cancel the seizure of the land in the sector of Jerusalem taken from Jordan in 1967, despite criticism by the United Nations Security Council and the Arab League, nine of whose members were to have held an emergency summit in Morocco on Saturday. Following the Israeli

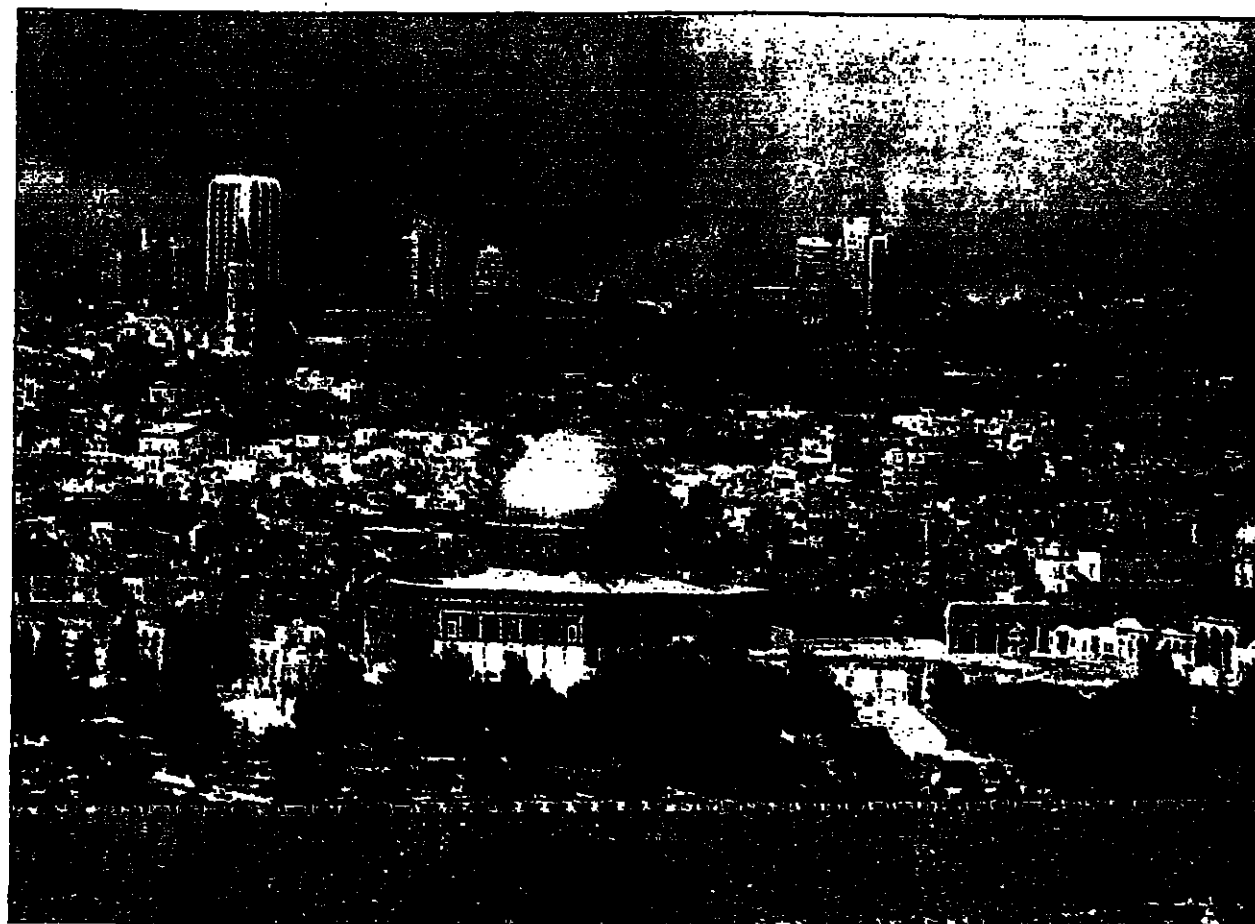
decision yesterday, Egyptian state television reported that President Mubarak had contacted the leaders invited to the summit, and they had agreed it should be postponed.

The Israeli climbdown was described by a leading member of the right-wing Likud opposition as "a disgrace to the state of Israel". Political observers said it would increase the temperature in advance of next year's general election and could provoke right-wing demonstrations.

The reversal was decided at an emergency session of the Centre-Left Cabinet after Israeli Arab deputies, who have traditionally supported Mr Rabin, refused to withdraw two motions of no-confidence which appeared likely to secure sufficient opposition support to bring down the three-year-old Government, which has only a small majority.

A heated debate on the motions had already begun amid warnings by Arab deputies of a new intifada when Mr Peres announced that the seizure would be suspended. All land expropriation was to be referred to a new committee headed by Mr Rabin, he added.

During the debate, Mr Peres, a leading Cabinet dove, yelled, banged on the podium



Jerusalem, where Israel's Government had intended taking over 133 acres of mainly Palestinian-owned land

with his fist and accused the opposition of exploiting the Government's dilemma in order to secure a result of which its members disapproved. "Topping the Government is more important [to the opposition] than keeping the unity of the country around Jerusalem," he said.

Only hours earlier, ministers said the policy would not be altered. But although the decision was a humiliation for Labour, many left-wing supporters of the Government privately expressed relief as a breathing space appeared to have been offered to the Middle East peace process. Senior government sources

said that 24 hours earlier, King Hussein of Jordan had warned Mr Rabin of severe problems facing him domestically if the land grab went ahead. "There is a militant feeling in the kingdom, and the regime is encountering opposition to the peace in the public and the parliament," the monarch was quoted as saying.

If the Government had fallen, Mr Rabin would have stayed in power at the head of a transition administration, probably until the 1996 election. But experts said that his power to take decisions on the peace process would have been much weakened.

Jerusalem's total population: 405,000 Jews, 155,000 Palestinians. Population of east Jerusalem, captured in 1967: 160,000 Jews and 155,000 Palestinians, 43.6 square miles.

Metropolitan area: from West Bank towns of Ramallah to Bethlehem in south, and from Jewish West Bank settlement town of Maale Adumim in east to Israeli suburb of Mevaseret Zion in west. Population 900,000.

Holy sites: Western or Wailing Wall, last remnant of Jewish Temple destroyed by Romans in 70AD and holiest site of Judaism, Islam's third holiest shrines after Mecca and Medina, Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock from where Muhammad is believed to have ascended to heaven. Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus is widely believed to have been crucified and buried.

Jewish building in east Jerusalem: 60,000 units have been built since 1967 or are planned. On more than half the annexed land, Arabs are not allowed to build.

Ancient and bitter conflict rocks cradle of three faiths

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

BATTLE-scarred from 4,000 years of conflict, the modern city of Jerusalem, a sacred symbol of Islam, Judaism and Christianity, has again emerged at the cutting edge of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Attempts to postpone negotiations about its future status until May 1996 — as suggested in the Oslo peace deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation — were exploded by pan-Arab fury at an Israeli plan announced in April to seize 133 acres of mainly Arab land in east Jerusalem.

Although Israel will soon be officially celebrating the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem as capital of the Jewish people under King David, it was not until 1949 that the Israeli Cabinet resolved for the first time that the city was "an inseparable part of the State of Israel and its eternal capital". Two years earlier,

shortly before the foundation of the state, a United Nations partition plan that was never implemented resolved to divide Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish state and establish Jerusalem as a third, internationally administered, separate political body. But the Arabs never accepted the UN resolution.

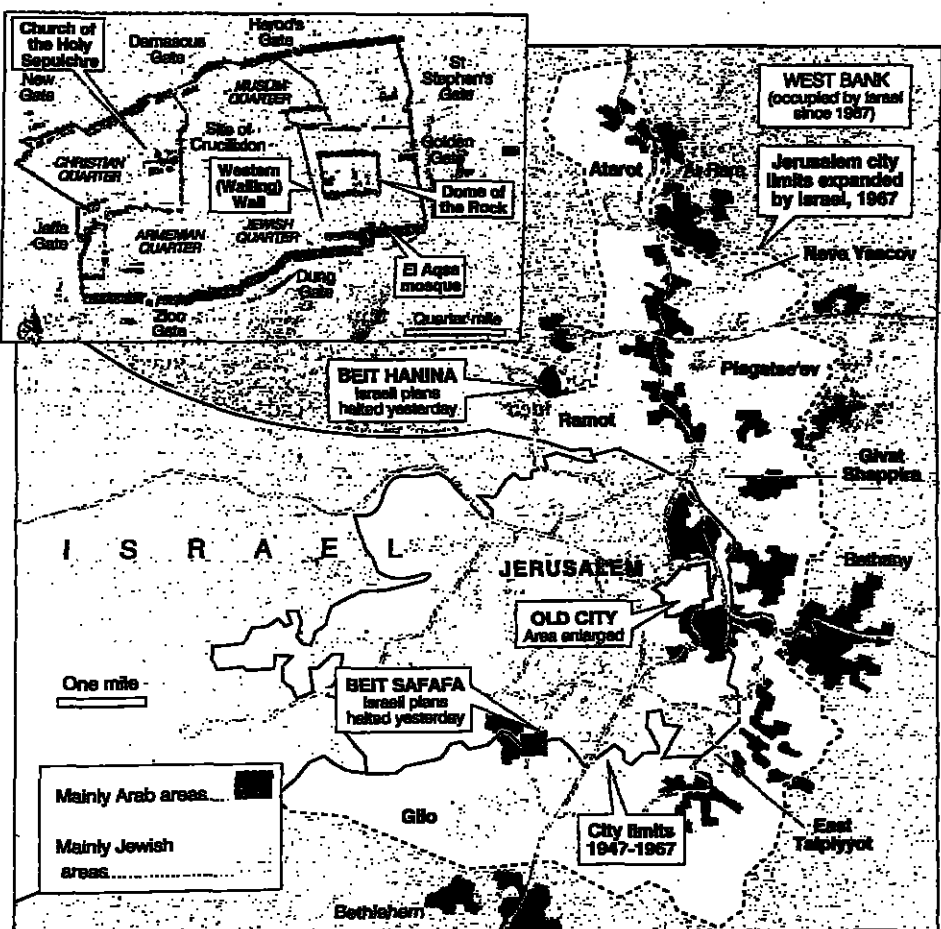
Captured in the 1967 Six Day War and annexed by Israel in the face of international condemnation, east Jerusalem — the mainly Arab sector of the city which contains the main holy shrines — has become a battleground between Arabs and Jews in the race to establish positions before negotiations on the city begin in earnest.

Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, the Housing Minister, declared recently: "The problem is not land. The battle for Jerusalem has begun, and do not let anyone try and fool you. After

the Six Day War, the Government decided on the unity of Jerusalem — and there is national consensus on this. Jerusalem is ours, we will do it in what we want, and we will rule as we see fit."

Although the eastern sector has a distinctly Arab atmosphere, the Jewish population of 160,000 now exceeds the 155,000 Arab residents. The Palestinians have been subjected to a number of crippling restrictions.

With the largest single gathering of Arab leaders since 1990 due on Saturday in Rabat, but postponed last night, the Jerusalem issue has revived support for the PLO which it forfeited among Arabs by its support for Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War. Publicly at least, most Arab states support the Palestinian claim that east Jerusalem should be the capital of a future state.



Hope for export boost as Emir of Kuwait arrives

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

SHEIKH Jaber al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, arrives in London today at the start of a full ceremonial state visit that underlines Britain's close relationship with a country for which British soldiers died during the Gulf War.

Since the conflict, Britain has been one of the main Western supporters of the emirate, taking a tough line against the relaxation of sanctions against Iraq and promising Kuwait immediate military backing in its confrontation last year with Iraqi troops massing on the border. The Sheikh will receive renewed pledges during his three-day visit of British moral and political support, and British commitment to Gulf security.

Trade will be another main topic. British firms play a big role in the Kuwaiti oil industry, and the emirate has a substantial holding in BP. However, despite valuable defence sales, Britain lags behind its competitors in total exports, lying fifth among Western exporters to Kuwait. The Government is hoping to take advantage of the goodwill generated by the visit to boost

exports. Kuwait is an important arms export market, which the Government is keen to exploit. Although Britain failed to sell Kuwait Challenger 2 main battle tanks, it concluded a £1 billion deal for the sale of Warrior armoured infantry fighting vehicles. Britain has also sold Hawk jet trainers and Tucano turbo-prop trainers, and is now looking for further sales in all



Al-Sabah: established limited democracy

fields. The Emir is the last of the Gulf rulers to return the visit of the Queen to the Gulf in 1979. His three days at the Queen's guest at Buckingham Palace will be largely filled with ceremonial activities. The only substantive political discussion will be during a Downing Street luncheon with John Major tomorrow. During the Iraqi invasion in 1990, Sheikh Jaber fled across

the desert with the rest of the ruling family, and has had to work hard to re-establish their authority since his return from exile in 1991. Largely as a result of behind-the-scenes lobbying, a limited democracy has been re-established, with the election of a new parliament, which has been relatively outspoken. Even this has proved too alarming for other Gulf rulers, and Sheikh Jaber has come under pressure from neighbours to restrict or suspend parliament in order not to encourage ideas of democracy in neighbouring states.

Sheikh Jaber last visited Britain in 1991 as part of a tour of Western capitals to thank the Gulf allies for their support. He will now be looking to Britain for support in Kuwait's campaign to get 627 prisoners missing in Iraq identified and returned. He will also warn Mr Major that, despite worries about Iraq, Kuwait and its Arab neighbours are as concerned about territorial claims and the export of Shia Muslim radicalism by Iran.

The state visit will begin this morning at Victoria Station, where the Emir will arrive after landing at Gatwick and being greeted by the Prince of Wales. He will not be met by the Queen until his arrival at Horse Guards Parade, where he will board the carriage for the traditional carriage procession to Buckingham Palace, with a Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry.

Special report, pages 20-22

Renault boss charged over blood scandal

Paris France's contaminated blood scandal reached the country's business community yesterday when Louis Schweitzer, the chairman of Renault, the car maker, was charged in connection with the affair (Adam Sage writes). The charges against M. Schweitzer arise from his role as the director of the private office of the former Prime Minister, Laurent Fabius, during the mid 1980s.

Oklahoma bomb site destroyed

Washington: In just eight seconds today the skeleton of Oklahoma City's Federal Building will be demolished in a veil of smoke and dust, burying forever the most poignant reminder of America's worst act of terrorism (Tom Rhodes writes). More than a month ago a 4,800lb bomb tore through the building, killing 167 people.

15 die in Karachi strike violence

Karachi: Violence left at least 15 people dead, including five members of the security forces, as a strike called by the opposition Mohajir Qaumi Movement brought Pakistan's business capital to a halt yesterday (Zahid Hussain writes). More than 50 people, including 15 security personnel, have died in violence since last Thursday.

Tickets setback and crime mar run-up to rugby

FROM MICHAEL HAMLIN IN JOHANNESBURG

RUGBY World Cup fever is gripping South Africa in the run-up to the start of the competition on Thursday, with tickets returned from overseas being made available for local purchase.

The organisers admitted yesterday that sales abroad had been disappointing, but this means that 450,000 tickets are unexpectedly available in South Africa when all but season ticket holders and club shareholders thought that they had lost their chance of attending a cup match.

Yesterday there were a few thousand standing-room tickets available for the opening game between the champions, Australia, and the hosts in Cape Town, but long queues formed at the other main venues when tickets went on sale. The price of tickets for some of the top matches has more than doubled on the black market.

Enthusiasm for the competition is being fuelled by the arrival of about 30,000 supporters from abroad. However, they face not only the chilly and wet winter weather that has suddenly swept across the country, but also a crime wave. The first visiting fan to become a crime victim was a 22-year-old British woman who was raped in Cape Town after accepting a lift with four men sharing a taxi after she left a nightclub at 2am yesterday.

The authorities are concerned over further possible

attacks on rugby tourists, and they are issuing leaflets in Johannesburg at the rugby grounds, at hotels and at Jan Smuts airport. "We are not going to say to people that you are entirely safe," said Colonel David Bruce of the Witwatersrand police. "But provided you act sensibly you will have no trouble."

Colonel Bruce said that the centre of Johannesburg was not safe at night, and that even in the day visitors should avoid bus terminuses, and do their sightseeing in groups. He did not deny that there was a high murder rate in Johannesburg, but pointed out that the murders were mainly in the outskirts of the city, in the black townships, where tourists were unlikely to go unescorted. "If they go to Soweto, they are likely to go in official tour groups, so that won't be a problem either," he said.

In Cape Town, police will be patrolling business centres, tourist venues and financial institutions in cars and on bicycles. In Durban, where most of the England fixtures will be played, Jack Rowell, the team manager, said there was no curfew for his players. "The players were here last year," he said. "They go out in groups or with security help. They're very responsible people."

French optimism, page 46
Morris for England, page 48

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Serbia to recognise Bosnia in exchange for softer sanctions

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
AND JOEL BRAND
IN SARAJEVO

As more questions are raised about the UN peacekeeping operation, the West hopes that the Bosnian Serbs' increasing isolation will drive them back to the negotiating table

PRESIDENT Milosevic of Serbia is believed to have decided to recognise Bosnia-Herzegovina in exchange for a further easing of sanctions, and the agreement should be announced within two days, according to European and Serbian sources yesterday.

The deal would provide a much-needed spur to the peace process, but leave the Bosnian Serbs more isolated than ever. Foreign ministers of the Contact Group countries are so convinced that an agreement has been reached that they are preparing to discuss it at a meeting in The Hague next week. France, meanwhile, may try once more to convene a fully fledged peace conference before its presidency of the European Union expires at the end of next month.

Robert Frasure, the American envoy sent to Belgrade last week to negotiate with Mr Milosevic on behalf of the Contact Group, is believed to have finalised the recognition deal yesterday and he is expected to leave Belgrade today to relay details to the member governments — the American, British, French, German and Russian.

Mr Frasure reportedly offered to suspend most sanctions for 200 days, with the exception of the crucial embargos on oil, military equipment and international credits. Serb



Milosevic has cut the Bosnian Serbs adrift

sources suggested that bank accounts could be unfrozen, though Western diplomatic sources said this was unlikely.

Foreign ministers from the Contact Group will probably meet to endorse any deal on the margins of the Nato meeting in The Netherlands next week. In Moscow, a senior Foreign Ministry official said that he expected such a meeting to take place.

In Belgrade, Mr Milosevic appears to be preparing public opinion and more headline nationalists through reports in the tightly controlled Belgrade media that an agreement

could be close. The Serbian leader was the patron of the Bosnian Serbs until he cut them off last year in exchange for some sanctions relief. The UN curbs were imposed in 1992 as a punishment for Serbia's role in fomenting the Bosnian war.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, showed his alarm at the expected deal by saying: "No one can recognise Bosnia-Herzegovina unless we recognise it, and this we shall never do."

The agreement would cause huge relief in Western capitals where it is hoped that the Bosnian Serbs' increasing isolation will drive them back to the negotiating table.

In Sarajevo yesterday, snipers and shells killed three residents and wounded four as Bosnian Serb troops retook more heavy weapons from UN soldiers. Peacekeeping officials admitted that the heavy weapons exclusion zone around the city was effectively defunct.

Workers have erected more large shields in recent days to keep pedestrians out of the sights of Serb snipers. Large cargo containers and plastic sheeting now adorn several crossroads in the Bosnian capital.

The UN privately admits that the heavy weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo has only a negligible deterrent effect now. The Serbs see the peacekeepers who are supposed to guard those arms as insurance against possible Nato air strikes. They have made it apparent that those peacekeepers cannot be withdrawn. "More to the point, how do we actually get them out?" one official asked.

Fighting was reported in several other areas of Bosnia, including a Croat enclave near a vital Serb supply route in northern Bosnia, the north-western Bihać area, and the southwestern Livno plain where Serbs are fighting Croats.



President Walesa kisses the hand of the Pope after he celebrated Mass in Skoczow yesterday. At least 200,000 Poles greeted the pontiff's brief return to his homeland at the end of his tour of Central and Eastern Europe

Pope calls for religious tolerance

By ROGER BOYES

POST-COMMUNIST Polish government ministers yesterday knelt in front of the Pope as he gave a warning against a new wave of intolerance in Central and Eastern Europe directed at Catholics.

The pontiff was speaking at a Mass in the southern Polish township of Skoczow, across the border from the Czech Republic, at the end of a pilgrimage intended to rebuild the relationship between Catholics and Protestants in the region, as well as alerting the young to the dangers of materialism.

It was a brief but emotional homecoming for the Pope, and there was a stark contrast between the thin crowds in the largely agnostic Czech Republic and the enthusiastic 200,000 Poles gathered yesterday.

The Pope declared: "I greet this land with particular emotion." However, his homily against secular temptation and intolerance was anything but sentimental.

It was plain that he fears the erosion of faith in post-communist Europe. A poll published in Prague at the weekend showed that only 20 per cent of Czechs now consider themselves Catholic, 3 per cent regard themselves as Hussite Protestant, while most of the rest are unsure or non-believers.

The Vatican has long feared that this agnosticism could spread even into devoutly Catholic Poland. The authorities and the public had to be tolerant of believers, he said. "In the name of

totalitarian ideologies, millions of people were forced to act against their deepest convictions. We recall the period when consciences were suppressed, when human dignity was despised, when so many innocent people suffered for deciding to remain faithful to their convictions," he said. Now, "despite appearances, the rights of conscience must be defended as well."

In part, the Pope's comments were aimed at the left-of-centre Polish Government whose Prime Minister, Josef Oleksy, was present at the Mass. One Vatican concern has been that guarantees of religious freedom were being steadily chipped away as more and more former communists return to power.

UN judge investigates Croatia atrocities

Zagreb: The chief prosecutor for the United Nations war crimes tribunal for former Yugoslavia visited Zagreb, the Croatian capital, yesterday to look into possible atrocities committed during recent fighting in central Croatia. Judge Richard Goldstone met Mate Granic, the Foreign Minister, and was due to meet Yasushi Akashi, the UN special envoy.

"We discussed generally aspects of co-operation between the tribunal and particularly the office of the prosecutor and the Croatian Government," Judge Goldstone said. He and Mr Granic discussed allegations of Croatian army atrocities during its May 1-2 offensive in western Slavonia, and "other events" in Croatia at the beginning of May.

The UN earlier accused Croatian troops of directly targeting fleeing Serb civilians during the assault but later said it was unclear whether civilians were caught in crossfire or intentionally gunned down. (Reuters)

Burmese junta toughens stance on opposition as investment flows in

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PAYATHONZU, BURMA



Suu Kyi: nearing seventh year of house arrest

THE Burmese military junta is showing signs of economic liberalisation but appears to be returning to a tougher line on political dissidents.

Just a few months ago, the junta seemed to be trying to prove it was intent on change. Its leaders met Aung Sang Suu Kyi, the detained opposition leader, late last year after years of refusing to. Some detainees were freed, certain reforms promised and a somewhat more liberal attitude towards the generally terrorised opposition seemed to be

emerging. Then in January, Burmese forces overran the Maungmye headquarters of the Karen National Union, the most prominent separatist group fighting Rangoon.

At the same time, a new market-oriented economic policy has brought some signs of prosperity in Rangoon and Mandalay after three decades of socialist stagnation. Some foreign investment has been attracted and push new hotels have opened. "Now [the junta] is more arrogant than ever," said a Bangkok-based diplo-

mat. "It is confident things are going its way and that the international community will gradually come round."

Daw Suu Kyi, 50, was leader of Burma's pro-democracy movement and winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize. In July, she will begin her seventh year under house arrest. "I'm not very sanguine about her prospects of being freed," said one senior Rangoon-based envoy. "All the indications are that the regime is not prepared to release her. It still seems to fear unrest."

Land pledge placates Indian bandits

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BHOPAL

ARMED with trademark curly moustaches and a couple of shotguns, 14 dacoits (bandits) swaggered into the central Indian city of Bhopal last week for high-level talks about their grievances.

Malikhan Singh, who has 19 murders to his name, tucked his ten-inch moustache behind his ears and said that he was satisfied with the outcome of an hour's discussion with Digvijay Singh, the Chief Minister of the state of Madhya Pradesh.

He and his fellow brigands were promised land, cows and scholarships for their children by Mr Singh, who has launched an unprecedented

drive to end an 800-year tradition of banditry in the inhospitable Chambal Valley in the north of the state. Eight

"I never made much money as a brigand. I should have become a politician"

small gangs still prowled the terrain, searching for wealthy people to rob. Malikhan Singh and 22 of his gang members surrendered in 1982 after the

state government promised that they would not be hanged, and receive only light prison sentences. The offer was further sweetened with pledges of land and money. Most of them served seven or eight years in jail.

The dacoits complained that many of the promises had not been fulfilled and that they had been given poor quality land. The minister promised to settle their grievances. Malikhan Singh said he would never return to the ravines but, like all his friends, would always regard himself as a dacoit.

He was now scratching a living from a small piece of

land. "I never made much money from dacoity," he said. "I should have become a politician. That's the way to get rich."

The minister yesterday pledged to fight for the release of all remaining Chambal dacoits from prison. He is aware that the ageing legends of dacoity are folk heroes for the young who might want to adopt the same lifestyle.

The state government says that the cost of satisfying the dacoits' demands is nothing compared to the cost of being forced to resume huge security operations in Chambal if there were a big resurgence of banditry.

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One of last week's Feign cartoons in the South China Morning Post, which is thought likely to have offended the Chinese Government

Anti-Peking cartoonist erased from payroll

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

A DISPUTE about self-censorship by the Hong Kong press in deference to Peking has broken out after the dismissal of the colony's best-known political cartoonist from the leading English-language newspaper.

Larry Feign, the creator of "Lily Wong", a notoriously anti-Peking strip, which has appeared in the South China Morning Post for more than five years, was dismissed by fax at the weekend. David Armstrong, the editor, said the decision was made for budgetary reasons.

Chris Patten, the Governor and a fan of the cartoon strip, once wrote a letter to Feign saying "I follow the adventures of 'Lily' daily." Anti-Pe-

king members of the Legislative Council have expressed alarm over the dismissal. In a letter to the Post, Martin Lee said that after the 1997 handover to China, "we in Hong Kong will have one country with two systems — but no sense of humour".

Feign said yesterday: "This cartoon comes straight from my heart. I feel as if a lover has died. I can't believe that the world's most profitable paper would cut me for budgetary reasons. I even offered to take a pay cut, but the editor refused. It doesn't add up." He said the cartoon strip was not even allowed to leave with a final farewell.

Colleagues at the Post were unwilling to comment publicly, but some suggested that last week's cartoons about Chinese organ transplants from executed criminals may have been too

much for Robert Kuok, the paper's owner, who observed recently that the Hong Kong press should avoid confrontation with Peking. Mr Kuok, a Malaysian tycoon, bought the paper last year from Rupert Murdoch, chief executive of The News Corporation. The journalists added, however, that Mr Kuok, who has close links to China's leaders, had not previously intervened when the newspaper was critical of China.

Hong Kong journalists are nervous about offending Peking. Several have been arrested on the mainland and one, Xi Yang, is serving a 15-year sentence for disclosing "state secrets" which were well-known financial statistics. The de facto Chinese embassy here, the New China news agency, regularly complains to editors about

"fabrications". Peking is especially sensitive to organ-transplant stories involving executed prisoners, which it regularly denounces.

Robin Munro, of Human Rights Watch Asia, who originally disclosed that executed prisoners' organs were being sold, said that the newspaper "owes its readers an explanation for these events".

Police defended: A senior Hong Kong official yesterday described as reasonable the use of 3,250 teargas rounds by police fighting Vietnamese throwing spears and rocks in an operation to move them to another detention centre. It was more than six times the amount of teargas fired in an April 1994 confrontation. That time, a government-ordered inquiry criticised police for using excessive force. (AP)

India blocks British cash for charity

Delhi: Calcutta Rescue, a British charity that works with the destitute, has begun winding up its operations because India is refusing to let it use money raised in Britain (Christopher Thomas writes).

The organisation, which runs makeshift clinics under canvas, has been using foreign donations since it began 15 years ago. The Government suddenly stopped it doing so without any explanation. About £150,000 is sitting in a bank account in Britain.

The charity has been forced to stop paying its 135 Indian staff, and doctors are unable to buy drugs to treat patients with tuberculosis, leprosy and diabetes. On a typical day ten doctors treat 300 to 350 people.

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Why do so few new films have leading female roles, asks Giles Whittell

Hollywood shuns its pretty women

Julia Roberts lost her temper last week — not on a sound stage, nor with a paparazzo poking his lens into her private life, but on a UN photo-call in Haiti. The frayed end of Miss Roberts's tether was evident when she pointed into the media throng inside a schoolroom she was visiting and snapped: "You in the orange shirt! Out!"

It was not the serene sort of countenance presented by such former Unicef goodwill ambassadors as Audrey Hepburn, Peter Ustinov and that graduate of the world's toughest school of public comportment, the Princess of Wales. The UN Children's Fund apologised to the press travelling with Miss Roberts, explaining that she was "shy" and "inexperienced" in her new role.

What the trip achieves for Haiti's desperate children remains to be seen. What it reflects about the pressures of contemporary female superstardom is already clear. Unlike their male counterparts, actresses in search of serious roles at several million dollars per film are finding Hollywood less amenable than ever (and those who shun it should not expect much sympathy either).

Julia Roberts has had a bad nine months. Her last film, *I Love Trouble*, which co-starred Nick Nolte, bombed when released last autumn. She moved to New York and weathered a storm of 1-told-you-so's as her brief marriage to country singer Lyle Lovett fell apart. Casting about for something useful and unshowbizzy to do with her time, she alighted on Haitian children. She offered Unicef two weeks of her time. They wanted only two days — travelling stars tie up personnel who could otherwise be backing away at the developmental coalface. Eventually a six-day trip was agreed. Even that, as the orange-shirted photographer found out, proved a strain for someone used to near-total insulation from the real world.

The siren with the big hair and the enormous mouth, who had the world at her feet as the star of *Pretty Woman*, has not acted for more than a year. Is she sulking? Or has she bumped her pretty head on Hollywood's lofty glass ceiling?

The studios have launched their costliest summer ever, and it's an overwhelmingly male one: 16 frantic weekends for 54 new releases, six of which cost more than \$70 million (£44 million) each. These are the "tentpole" movies — colossal investments, massively promoted in the hope of earning back enough to subsidise the flops. They include *Batman Forever* (\$100 million), *Judge Dredd* (\$80 million) and *Waterworld*, the most expensive film of all time at \$175 million. And not one of them has a really meaty role for a woman.

To the chagrin of home-grown talent, the closest thing to a star female part in the season's ten most expensive films is taken by a Brit. Julia Ormond plays Guinevere opposite Richard Gere in *First Knight* (\$75 million). Next in order of visibility come Nicole Kidman as Batman's pouting love interest and Meryl Streep as a deeply domesticated farmer's wife for whom Clint Eastwood (as a travelling photo-journalist in *The Bridges of Madison County*) represents an outside world she hardly knows.

Streep's last role was as a fearless, muscle-bound whitewater rafter in *The River Wild*. It was a coup for her to land her latest part opposite Eastwood, which every major actress in town had pursued. But she will have to forgive the critics if they complain that after a daring — for a woman — attempt to "carry" an action movie she has harnessed herself to a stereotype.

Meanwhile the current king of the American box office, *Crimson Tide*, has an all-male — and all-macho — cast, apart from a few seconds of Denzel Washington's screen wife bidding him a tearful farewell as he reports for duty on a submarine at the start of the story. The same goes for *Apollo 13*, Tom Hanks's bid for a third consecutive Oscar. There is precious little scent of a woman at Mission Control, still less aboard Commander Lovell's stricken command module.

The message for screen actresses, even those who are at the peak of their powers, is clear and depressing. When the leading producers decide to loosen their purse-strings and make a splash, they call up the



Julia Roberts visits Haiti: she has not acted for more than a year and needs to keep her star status

men. Neither do they apologise for it. According to the *Hollywood Reporter's* influential "Star Power" survey, they are simply playing the market.

Of the eight stars given an A+ in the survey this year by those who buy advance foreign rights to films, and thereby provide the money that gets them made, all are men. Five scored a maximum 100 points, meaning they can attract money to a film whoever else is involved and however bad the script. They were Tom Cruise, Harrison Ford, Mel Gibson, Tom Hanks and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Last year Julia Roberts was up there with them.

The one option is to take off their clothes

This time she slid six points, joined in her downward bankability by Kim Basinger, Emma Thompson, Glenn Close and Sigourney Weaver. (Hugh Grant jumped 32 points.) It was, the trade paper concluded, "a lousy year for women; the gender's weakest performance in at least five years".

This could be all our fault. The producer Peter Hoffman blamed the maleness of movies on their audiences' "ingrained social prejudice". The old truism about children's films — that girls go to boys' films, but not vice versa — may apply equally to grown-ups. But many accuse the industry of soft-

pedalling in its perennial quest for stronger roles for women.

Women wanting to compete on more equal terms have one reliable option: to take off their clothes. Demi Moore has agreed to a few frames of full frontal nudity in her next film, *Striptease*. In the process she boosted her pay by \$5 million to \$12 million, the most an actress has ever been paid for a single film.

Titillation may be the way ahead, but Julia Roberts hasn't taken it. Perhaps it was something her mother told her. That would certainly account for her brisk brush-off lines. According to a neighbour in her new Gramercy Park apartment building in downtown Manhattan, a bunch of flowers sent to welcome her recently was returned with the message: "I don't take gifts from strangers."

One facelift too far for comfort

How can doctors with the purest of intentions end up in cosmetic surgery?

A woman has died after — and I use the word after in its temporal not causal sense — having a tummy tuck, in order "to regain her youthful looks". Not long ago another woman appeared on a television programme to explain about being a member of a third sex. Convinced of her essential androgyny, she had a double mastectomy and a hysterectomy.

More recently a 14-year-old girl told of the cosmetic surgery for which she was saving her pocket money, just to make her "pretty enough to be a television presenter".

You or I or might reasonably point out that the thing about youth is that it is not regainable, that believing yourself to be neither man nor woman shows a degree of psychological rather than physical dislocation and that many 14-year-old girls feel

anxious about their looks, but offering a nose job and cheek-bone augmentation is not the way to help them to get over that anxiety.

Unfortunately some doctors appear to reason differently. They can always be found and relied upon to carry out these operations (I'd call them mutilations). To call these doctors unscrupulous is tempting but it cannot be the truth (though I'm not sure I know quite what the right word would be for a surgeon who could remove perfectly healthy breasts and a perfectly healthy womb from a woman whose trouble lay so evidently elsewhere).

And I can't help but wonder how doctors who've gone through years of study and training, who went into medicine presumably with the purest of intentions, can end up in those facelift factories, performing operations that for the most part have no justification on medical grounds. Does it feel like failure, if a decidedly lucrative means of failure, to them?

I bet it doesn't. To a white-coated man, I am sure they are all convinced that what they are doing is helping people, and helping people in the best way they know. No doubt the surgeon who complied with the woman who claimed her true state to be so-called androgynous would not have done so if he didn't feel that his very radical treatment would benefit her as radically.

Watching last night's *Bramwell* on television I saw Robert

Hardy, as deliciously, preposterously, fruitfully as ever, as a Victorian surgeon lecturing on the therapeutic value of the removal of the ovaries, as a cure for melancholia. The whole point of the set piece was to show how brutal medicine was then. But you don't always need the perspective of time to see that the sincerity with which an opinion is held doesn't make it right.

It is not lack of scruple that makes doctors behave in ways that take our breath away: it is lack of humility. It is, if you like, the arrogance of science: those who practise medicine cannot imagine that whatever they can offer is not the highest good; they cannot admit of the possible failings, the limits or shortcomings of medicine.

I am not anti-science: and I do not for one minute accept the New Age orthodoxies about the iniquities of what is called so very scathingly "conventional medicine". For me, mainly, the conventions hold true.

Nor do I believe cosmetic surgery to be immoral, except perhaps when it is performed for no medical reason on teenage girls. However, the moral context of medicine cannot, and should not, be denied.

The insistence that medical treatment is just one more commodity which we, as the consumers, have every right to buy regardless leads all too often to the misappliance of science.

Love or lust?

THERE IS a respectable and well-founded history of the clergy's interest in sex — and I don't refer here to the recent announcement of the very understanding bishop, but to a new interpretation of the *Song of Songs* in the form of a book, *Love's Fugue*, by one Mother Xavier McMonagle.

The *Song of Songs*, she insists, is not a hymn of praise either for Christ's love of the Church or for a man's worship of a woman's body, but a railing against the depravities of the flesh. And her book is to stand as a warning to women to avoid lust and seek true love.

I'm not sure that this is a warning women should heed. One just has to look around to see that most unhappiness is due precisely to the doomed quest for some perfect true love, and not at all to good old-fashioned promiscuity.



NIGELLA LAWSON

When newscasters are the headlines

What Britain knows as a newscaster, America calls an anchorperson. The title is a telling one, for America has always regarded the men and women who relay the television news as oracles, figures of enormous prestige and unrivalled cultural clout who do not simply read an Autocue.

So when, as happened last weekend, one of the most celebrated doyennes of this mighty breed was unceremoniously dropped from one of the nation's most influential news programmes, the effect on the rest of the media was little short of spectacular.

The decision by the CBS television network to remove Connie Chung, after a calamitous two-year experiment in which she hosted *The CBS Evening News* with the veteran

Ben Macintyre on the million-dollar TV news rivalry of Dan Rather and Connie Chung

anchorman Dan Rather has been subjected to minute analysis from coast to coast.

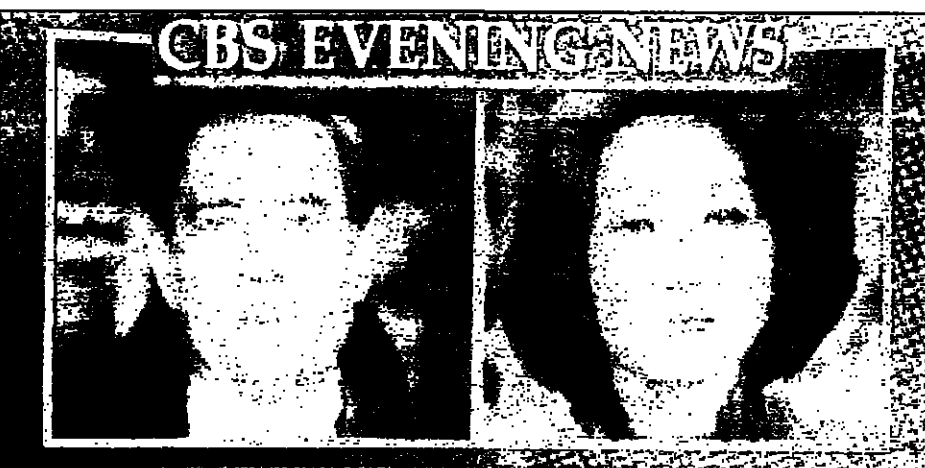
Ms Chung, whose salary is estimated at \$2 million (£1.27 million), has declined to accept a lesser role at CBS and will also lose her news magazine programme *Eye to Eye*.

Her ousting is partly a reflection of dwindling ratings at CBS, which has seen its

evening news programme drop to third place behind ABC and NBC, but it also says much about the way American television has elevated the traditional "talking head" into a media potentate.

Mr Rather, 63, has cultivated a reputation as a reporter of the old school. Given to pontificating on the ethics of journalism, he is happiest when grilling a president or posing in flak jacket on the world's front lines. By contrast, Ms Chung, 48, stands for a more tabloid, personality-driven news style. CBS gambled that the combination would create a wider news appeal, and lost.

All smiles for the cameras and resolutely polite to one another on screen and off, the volatile chemistry between the two CBS anchorfolk was palpable every night as they sat



Like mustard mixed with ice-cream: television's uneasy Rather and Chung double act

uncomfortably, side by side. Ms Chung has suggested that her dismissal reflects sexism on the part of male CBS executives. "In 1995, it's inappropriate for the only woman on the three major network news programmes to have anything less than a co-equal status," she said in a statement. Mr Rather's response was characteristically pungent: "This has about as much to do with gender as

mustard does with ice-cream." In 1981 Mr Rather took over as CBS anchorman from Walter Cronkite, whose reporting on Vietnam did more than anything else to change the role of the US television anchorman from a reporter into an independent political force.

Mr Rather still insists "the purpose of any news operation is to serve the audience... we do that by informing people, not by spending the better part

of our energies worrying about our image". But the suggestion is somewhat disingenuous, coming from one who knows well enough that modern American newscasting has rather less to do with effective journalism than with approval ratings and acting ability.

Anchorwomen and women must now spin their careers and public appeal as astutely as any politician. Just before

they finally chopped Ms Chung, CBS executives had planned excursions to their anchorwoman to Boston, Baltimore and San Diego with the specific intention of boosting her public image.

The stakes are massively high, and the rivalry blistering. Mr Rather earns \$5 million a year; his rivals at ABC, Diane Sawyer, Ted Koppel and Peter Jennings, each earn \$7 million. But more crucially, an anchor who is perceived to be unpopular can cost a network millions in advertising and ratings, as CBS has painfully discovered.

While he accepted without complaint his diminished role as co-host with Ms Chung in 1993, Mr Rather was reportedly enraged when he learnt his partner was planning to muscle in on election day coverage.

Her career stuttered, most notably after an interview in which she persuaded the mother of House Speaker Newt Gingrich to describe Hillary Clinton as a "bitch".

The final blow came with the Oklahoma bombing. Mr Rather, on holiday in Texas at

the time, offered to be at the site in 90 minutes and was incensed when Ms Chung was instead dispatched to the scene, where her questioning of rescue workers was considered "condescending".

Ms Chung later apologised on air, but not before locals had printed T-shirts with the legend "Go Home Connie".

Mr Rather knows what it feels like to be haunted by past mistakes, as George Bush reminded him during a blistering exchange over the Iran-Contra affair in 1988. Referring to an earlier occasion when Mr Rather had stormed out of the CBS television studio in a fit of pique, the then President snapped: "How would you like it if I judged your career by those seven minutes when you walked off the set?"

It was a salutary and depressing moment: a President and an interviewer exchanging barbs as if their careers were of equal importance.

Once, the American anchorman read the news. Gradually he came to influence the news. Increasingly, it seems, he is the news.

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Dr Thomas Stuttford discusses the dangers of being grossly obese, and one woman's battle to lose some of her 37 stones

The fat lady whom nobody loves

"O FAT white woman whom nobody loves/Why do you walk through the fields in gloves..." are perhaps the most quoted lines of Frances Cornford (1886-1960). She claimed that her poem, *To A Fat Lady Seen From A Train*, was inspired by a stranger: few believed her, and it apparently caused great pain to one of her associates.

It is unlikely that Hazel, a 37½-stone woman, who was the subject of a recent Yorkshire Television documentary, has ever heard of Frances Cornford, but the isolation which her poem describes sums up Hazel's view of her life. Whereas Hazel's kindly husband, Keith, and her jolly young family hold her in high regard, she dislikes herself, is ashamed to be seen in public, and

despises her compulsive eating. The underlying physiological and psychological reasons for obesity are numerous and complex, but the immediate mechanism is that the patient is eating more than is necessary. People's food needs vary and some have a quality which, although rejected in humans, is considered desirable in livestock — they are good converters and put on weight readily. It is not unusual to see the occasional patient who gains weight on only 800 calories a day, but Hazel, as she is shoeboxed into the family car en

route to be weighed on the local scrapyard's weighbridge, makes no secret of her diet. She has been taking at least 9,000 to 11,000 calories daily, four times what a pick-wielding miner would need to keep trim.



Hazel is not alone in her troubles: one in seven British people, and one in four Americans, are clinically obese, that is to say, weigh 20 per cent more than is considered desirable by life insurance offices. The numbers are rising: in the past decade the number of obese women has increased by 25 per cent and men by 50 per cent.

Public attention, and money, is lavished on those whose eating disorder drives them to the brink of starvation, but obesity tends to be ignored. The number of NHS clinics dealing with it can be counted on the fingers of two hands, although it would be sound economics to study its causes and treat its sufferers. Obesity is associated with an increase in mortality from diabetes and cardiovascular disease, as well as some forms of cancer; it is estimated that its complications cost taxpayers £165 million a year.

Hazel is now so gross that her husband has had to stop working. She is unable to walk unaided, even to the lavatory. She is so heavy that her fat can no longer be contained within her skin, for although skin is elastic hers has been stretched to the point that it is tearing. Diets, whether helped by appetite suppressants or not, tend to have a limited impact, and appetite suppressants themselves have only a very short-term role in weight control. Treatment needs to modify the patient's behaviour so as to remove the compulsion to eat more than is needed. Mild obesity can be treated at Weight Watchers or other lay self-help groups, but even moderate obesity needs medically supervised diets and behavioural therapy.

A nasty blip in cancer research

Jeremy Laurance on the faulty report that nearly destroyed the Bristol Cancer Help Centre

In September 1990, a small centre in Bristol that offered alternative healing to cancer patients became the focus of world attention after doctors alleged that its methods were killing patients.

The Bristol Cancer Help Centre, which helped sufferers to tackle their disease with meditation, counselling, relaxation and a vegetarian diet, was the first in the world to submit its "alternative" methods to scientific study.

Researchers compared more than 800 patients with breast cancer and the results, published in *The Lancet*, suggested that those who supplemented their conventional treatment with therapy at Bristol were twice as likely to die as those who received conventional treatment alone.

The extraordinary findings seemed to make no sense. As Professor Clair Chilvers, head of the department of epidemiology at Nottingham University and chief author of the study, said at the time: "One can really hardly believe that counselling, laying-on of hands and things of that sort could make any difference."

Nevertheless, the study was published with a fanfare of publicity and received worldwide coverage in the media. At the launch press conference, observers noted a triumphalist tone as the gleeful researchers announced a spectacular victory over critics of conventional medicine.

But two months later the specialists unexpectedly recanted. Under fire from doctors backing the Bristol centre, and from the medical establishment — including Sir Walter Bodmer, director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, which funded the study with the Cancer Research

Campaign — they admitted that they had made a statistical error. In a letter to *The Lancet*, they revealed that the Bristol patients had more advanced disease and that is why they were more likely to die.

The damage, however, had already been done. In a documentary which examines the Bristol study and its aftermath, *The Cancer War Story*, to be broadcast on BBC2 tonight, Lynda McGilvray, a former patient at the centre, describes how she learnt of the original findings from the nine o'clock television news.

"It was just shock. My daughter was sitting there, she was 12 at the time, and she said 'That's where you went.' Next morning I woke to find her standing by my bed. She said 'They said you would die if you went to Bristol so I'm standing here waiting.'"

Five years on, the episode is regarded as one of the most embarrassing in medical research. The greatest damage was to public confidence. Tonight's film, broadcast as part of BBC2's *Taking Liberties* series, alleges that in their eagerness to attack the claims of alternative practitioners, the researchers rushed to publish a flawed paper that had been inadequately checked. It had tragic consequences. A few weeks after the letter correcting the findings appeared in *The Lancet*, Professor Tim McElwain, one of the researchers and a respected figure at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, committed suicide. The editor of *The Lancet*, Dr Robin Fox, who retires this month, has confessed that he will go to his grave with the words "Bristol Cancer Help Centre" engraved on his heart. Although the study had been peer reviewed before publication, the



A healer with a patient in the Bristol centre's chapel: did hostility towards alternative medicine prejudice the study?

journal had not then implemented the routine statistical review now in place.

In the film, Professor Karol Sikora, deputy director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and a long-time supporter of the Bristol centre, calls for the paper to be formally withdrawn. "It leaves a nasty blip on the whole field of research in complementary medicine."

Dr Richard Smith, editor of the *British Medical Journal*, says that the Bristol paper has done "really rather a lot of damage in how people perceive medical research". The triumphant tone in which the researchers launched their findings gave the impression

that rather than behaving as disinterested scientists, they were motivated by hostility towards alternative medicine.

The explanation may lie in the polarised attitudes to cancer treatment in the 1980s. Grandiose claims were made for the Bristol centre's regime when it was launched 15 years ago by the energetic and charismatic Dr Alec Forbes. The Prince of Wales came down to open it, and a series of six programmes was made on its work by the BBC.

Cancer specialists worried that its unconventional treatments, such as coffee enemas and laetrile (an extract of

apricot stones), were being given spurious authenticity. The centre's diet of raw vegetables and pulses caused near starvation in some desperately ill women. Some patients became disillusioned with the harsh regime and specialists who had to pick up the pieces were convinced the centre was adding to their suffering.

In this tense atmosphere the Bristol study was launched with the aim of settling the issue. However, by the time it reported, Bristol had modified its original programme with a less rigid diet and a less hectoring approach focused more on the quality of life than on cure.

Editors argue that medical journals publish many papers which turn out to be wrong. But the Bristol study is an exception because of the gravity of the original error, the magnitude of the claims made, and the suffering caused to the patients involved.

● The Bristol Cancer Help Centre has launched a "Life Support" appeal. Donations to the centre at Grove House, Bristol BS8 4PG (01179 736229).

The blight of brittle bones

Dr Kieran Sweeney on a disease that can put parents on trial

At the age of seven Henry remembers coming home from hospital with his leg once again in plaster, and seeing a photograph on his mother's mantelpiece — three aunts sunning themselves on a beach, each with an arm or leg in plaster. From that point on, he knew that his unusually brittle bones were inherited, and that he would have to be a more careful in the playground than his peers.

Osteogenesis imperfecta or childhood brittle bones is a rare disease. Henry is the only sufferer I have seen as a GP. Fortunately for him, he had a mild form and it was recognised early. As a result he grew normally and became an active professional man. But the disease can be severe and difficult to diagnose.

Arie Augarden and his colleagues at the Chaim Sheba Medical Centre's paediatric department in Tel Aviv report in *The Journal of Medicine* how they recently admitted to their wards an eight-month-old girl with a fractured thigh. Routine chest X-ray also revealed an earlier rib fracture and child abuse was suspected. But the parents vigorously denied this.

When the baby was re-admitted three months later with a new fracture of the right thigh, the paediatric team felt sure that her injuries were not accidental, and summoned the social workers.

The parents were saved by the appearance of their baby's first two teeth. They were transparent — a characteristic feature of one form of this brittle bone disease. Such teeth are frequently quite fragile and can erode or break with minimum trauma.

In the most severe form of osteogenesis imperfecta, multiple fractures occur actually in the womb and nearly half these babies are stillborn. In

other cases the disease varies considerably both in its severity and symptoms. Diagnosis is easiest when there is a known family history. The key clinical signs are a bluish discoloration of the sclera (the fibrous coat of the eyeball), knock knees, flat feet, and extreme laxity of the ligaments, particularly in the hands. But, these characteristics may not necessarily be present: the baby which the team at Tel Aviv looked after had only bone thinning and distinctive teeth.

It is sometimes possible to diagnose this condition before birth. Distinct X-ray appearances can show the bones are developing poorly. In other types of the disease, some intricate biochemical analyses can demonstrate an abnormal production of collagen, the tough fibrous protein which forms many connective tissues.

Children with brittle bones may develop back problems with scoliosis and deformities of the bones at fracture sites as they grow older. So the main aim of treatment is to prevent fractures and to ensure that if one occurs, great care is taken to align the site accurately.

Some treatments aimed at strengthening the bones, have been tried: calcium and calcitonin therapy, both of which are used to treat osteoporosis in the elderly people, have not been successful with these children.

Last year the *Forensic Science International Journal* carried a review of several cases of children who had been listed as victims of child abuse while alive, but in whom osteogenesis imperfecta was found at post mortem. Doctors at Tel Aviv now recommend that all children with repeated fractures have their teeth examined before the social workers are called.

● Dr Sweeney is a GP in Exeter.

Social workers quickly and falsely suspect adults of violence

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Look for the Blair necessities

Labour has yet to learn about the free market, says Tim Congdon

Is new Labour different? Is the gap between the two main parties on the core issues of economic management now so small as to be imperceptible?

In the 14th Mait lecture, given yesterday at the City University, Mr Blair tried to commit Labour to financially responsible economic policies. In phrases which could have been uttered by Baroness Thatcher, he pledged that a Labour government would not sacrifice its inflation targets in order to stimulate short-term growth. For him, as for her, a non-inflationary macro-economic environment is "essential".

Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, have been on a credibility offensive in the past fortnight, to persuade financial markets and others that public expenditure and the budget deficit will be kept under control if Labour wins the next election. Mr Brown has said that a Labour government would not borrow over a whole economic cycle, unless the borrowing were to finance capital expenditure. By so doing he has introduced a new principle, which he terms "the golden rule", to the debate on British macroeconomic policy.

Labour is still the party of subsidy and state control

Credibility is valuable, particularly for an incoming Labour government. Financial markets will be happy to hold the pound and gilt-edged securities if they believe the recent speeches by Mr Blair and Mr Brown, and it will also be easier for a new Labour government to boost expenditure and borrowing if the pound and gilt-edged market are strong. Paradoxically, therefore, a socialist government can be far more determinedly socialist if financial markets believe it to be cautious, trustworthy and sensible than if they regard it as risky, unreliable and misguided.

The term "golden rule" is an artful piece of marketing. It may convince a number of participants in financial markets, as well as the majority of political commentators, that Labour is anxious to curb public debt. But a little historical investigation shows that application of the so-called "golden rule" could actually lead to a massive increase in public debt.

Since the early 1970s, government capital expenditure has been reduced sharply. Whereas in 1974 the ratio of government capital expenditure to national output was 7.3 per cent, last year it was only 3.4 per cent. Suppose that in 1996 (presumably the last year of the Conservative Government) public sector borrowing is £20 billion, or about 3 per cent of output. (This is pessimistic, but plausible.) Then, unless a newly elected Labour government were to curb current expenditure, it could boost capital expenditure as a share of output to the 1974 level, increase borrowing to 7 per cent of national output and still comply with the golden rule. A borrowing requirement of 7 per cent of national output would ap-

proach £50 billion — which in terms of actual money is not far from the highest-ever figure.

Messrs Brown and Blair would no doubt insist that this is not at all their intention. If elected, they genuinely would plan to stop unnecessary waste and do their utmost to ensure that public-sector projects gave value for money.

It is instructive to compare the recent statements from Mr Blair and Mr Brown with a speech by Nick Raynsford, the Shadow Minister for Housing, at the annual general meeting of the Warden Housing Association last month. Noting that the number of new rented houses is likely to be 20,000 this year, Mr Raynsford remarked that "most commentators recognise the need for a programme of around 100,000 new homes a year for social housing". Further, as the condition of the housing stock "gives cause for concern", many rented properties are "in urgent need of repair or modernisation".

If the cost of each new "social" home is put at £55,000, the public expenditure for the extra 80,000 homes implied by Mr Raynsford would be about £4.5 billion.

With the additional refurbishment programme as well, the total bill could well be £6.5 billion a year, equivalent to 1 per cent of national output. Quite where Mr Raynsford obtains his figure of 100,000 new homes is unclear. Of course, the more "social" homes public subsidy provides, the lower the rents a private landlord can expect to receive and the less the incentive he has to build them.

Obviously "100,000" is a better slogan than £2,568 or 102,300 or whatever, and plainly it was this that determined the figure, not the careful and rigorous assessment of social costs and benefits promised by Mr Brown.

Mr Raynsford seems not to have understood that the main reason why private landlords will not build new houses, renovate old ones and rent them out is that he talks the way he does. If Mr Blair really does believe in the virtues of the market economy, he ought to tell the Shadow Minister for Housing about the meaning of supply and demand.

No, new Labour is not different. The Labour Party is still the party of subsidy, intervention and state control. There would be nothing new, special or wonderful about a future Labour government imposing financial restraints on itself. Both the last two Labour governments did this — though they asked the International Monetary Fund to keep the accounts and take the blame. Taxes, government expenditure and public debt would all be higher at the end of a Blair government than they would be if the British people vote for the Conservatives at the next general election.

Professor Congdon is economic adviser to Gerrard and National Holdings plc.



MP USES ANOTHER'S NAME WITHOUT PERMISSION



When the music stops

New music has lifted the spirits for centuries; now it depresses us. Why?

There's trouble ahead, I'm sorry to say. Actually, I'm not at all sorry, and indeed I have been waiting for this opportunity for a very long time. What I really meant was not that I was facing trouble — I am facing trouble practically all the time — but that the theoretical "sorry" applies not to me but to those I am about to displease. Suffice it to say, those who are to be displeased will be very displeased, and they will also be very numerous.

It all began with Felix Aprahamian, and if you don't know who Felix Aprahamian is (incredibly, *Who's Who* doesn't seem to know), you should be tarred and feathered, and don't think that because tar and feathers are expensive you are safe, because rancid lard is very cheap. For Felix is not only a most delightful fellow, bearded like the pard and with a waistline that has often been mistaken for the QE2 sailing sideways, but a man who knows more about music than a hundred other experts in the subject. And what is more, the hundred experts themselves bow to Felix.

Now then; what bottle has Felix uncorked to cause a shocking disturbance? Attend: he was asked a question, and — Felix being a most courteous person — he gave the answer. The question was: "Will the music of Peter Maxwell-Davies and Harrison Birtwistle last?" And Felix, who would allow himself to be locked up for ever with Max Reger rather than tell a musical lie, answered: "Frankly, no."

Felix is right, of course, but that is hardly worth pointing out. Moreover, the questioner should have added a considerably greater number of composers to the list, starting with Hans Werner Henze, who could put an entire opera house to sleep two and a half minutes through the overture. (What do I say, could? Does, invariably.) Indeed, I have frequently thought of organising an annual competition for the most boring composer alive, but I have always had to reject the idea when I realise that Stockhausen would invariably carry off the prize.

Now let me be slightly serious for a moment: I shall be much more serious later. We must not, in running from the room with our hands over our ears, make the mistake — and a very serious mistake it would be — of treating the new

music as though it is a hoax, merely because it is perfectly dreadful to the ear, and even more to the soul. Whatever Birtwistle, Maxwell-Davies, Henze, Stockhausen, Boulez and the rest are, they are not charlatans. True, the sounds they mostly make are sufficiently weird to have many a passer-by running for a vet, but that is how they hear it, and they are entitled to it. (As for us, we are entitled to leave hastily, sometimes so hastily that we leave our umbrellas behind.)

But from Felix's sad answer there grows something much more important than whether the sounds Henze makes are worse than the ones that Boulez makes or vice versa. I have something to say which encompasses not just the argument that Felix has aroused, but something far more tremendous. Tremendous? Yes, tremendous, and colossal as well, though I can put it in a question that needs only three words: Has music stopped?

At first, the idea of music stopping sounds absurd, indeed incomprehensible. Let me then make clear what I mean. Has there been anyone since Shostakovich and Britten of whom we can say with certainty that his or her music will be played, regularly and throughout the world, a hundred years and more into the future?

Come, no cheating, no cooties, no getting your favourite onto the ladder; we are talking about immortality, the most fragile thing in the universe. And we are talking, also, about music, the most inexplicable thing in the universe. I say that on the hundred years test, no one in this country can be certain of a place.

Now don't get up screaming that Pöhlitz is far better than Beethoven, and don't burst into hysterical laughter when it is seen that there is no place for Schölk. Both of these are no doubt loved by many, but a century is a very long time, so long that both Maxwell-Davies and Birtwistle will be seen off before it ends. But I have not come here to rubish

anybody's favourite composer; I am here to point out that once upon a time — and a time not so long ago — great music was being made, music that all could and did listen to. And I tell you, because you cannot deny it, that that has ceased to be. Why?

Felix did not cheat: he picked for his ladder the best that there is today: Maxwell-Davies and Birtwistle. And because he is an honest man, he spoke the truth when he said that the two best will not endure. And I ask again, why?

There are some obvious answers; new music puzzles the public, but so it did many years ago. Did not that famous scowler in the gallery cry out "I'd give another florin if the thing would stop?" And was he not, that scowler, listening to Beethoven's most recent quartet?

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entirely new genre — the musical — has appeared and pushed it out. But, try as I can, I cannot conjure up a world where Schubert has disappeared and been replaced by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

My own amateur version is not that the new music is beyond our understanding, but that it is wholly introverted. There are too many composers who write for themselves alone, not necessarily *pour épater les bourgeois*, and if you ask why, they will probably be at a loss to answer. But in any case, the idea of music hidden because the world might misinterpret it is beyond my understanding, and I imagine yours as well.

I dare say that there have been hells in genius, times in which that it seemed music had dried up. Perhaps in other times the music-lovers have wrung their hands in the belief that the end has come, but one look at the musical calendar shows that that is false; there have been such times of musical drought between the floods, but the drought has never gone on so long as this.

Now I must be totally selfish: even with Felix wagging a finger at me, I look around for what I want, and I do not want what the present tells me I must have. I have been patient, very patient, but now I have lost my patience. I can and shall live without the new music, because I have the old music always at my elbow. Birtwistle and Maxwell-Davies are undoubtedly men of integrity, and their music has been carved out from their hearts and minds and bodies. But if you ask me what it sounds like, I shall have to tell you straight out: it sounds to me like the most awful, ghastly, hideous, revolting, pointless, dreary bludge that I ever did hear and pray heaven will never hear again.

Yes, yes, I know what is now coming. It is: Levin is an ignoramus. Levin sneers at genius. Levin is not fit to enter Covent Garden or the Royal Festival Hall. Levin should be buried under a pile of semi-quevers. Levin must repeat or be cast out into the infinite darkness.

But Levin has put on a false beard and moustache, Levin has practised a false limp, Levin has bribed the doorkeepers of all the music places in the land, and Levin thumps his nose and forever wallows gloriously in Beethoven, Bach, Mozart, Schubert, Brahms, Haydn and a double portion of Wagner, so there. And on top of all that, Felix is right.

Thatcher does back, Major

Woodrow Wyatt says Labour must never be let in

Baroness Thatcher is not of the Tory defeatist school which believes that the Conservatives cannot win the next election and that a brief spell out of office would be good for them, refreshing their jaded brains and energies. She knows that if Labour won it would almost certainly be in power for eight to ten years. In their first term the prosperity inherited from the Tories would continue to rise, enabling Labour to sow the seeds of economic calamity without the ill effects being immediately noticeable or painful. Labour would get a second term, as every post-war government has except Ted Heath's in 1974. By the time the Tories won again, irreparable damage would have been done to modern capitalist Britain, setting us back perhaps as much as 30 years.

Tony Blair's "new" Labour Party is still socialist at heart, however much it seems to imitate Tory policies. That is why Labour is so anxious to do Brussels' bidding — accepting EU majority voting in most important issues, ending our social chapter opt-out, adopting a minimum wage, joining a single currency, reducing Parliament to county council status. Encroaching Brussels bureaucracy is its beloved back-door socialism.

Labour believes in the decline of Britain as a world power, and already Robin Cook, its Shadow Foreign Secretary, has said we cannot expect to keep our permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Labour sees our future as a small cog with a minor part in the giant EU machine. Our centuries-old history of unfettered trade across the seas and our long partnership with America are to be as nothing to the imaginary advantages of a joint trading and foreign policy with our European associates, leading to "ever closer political union" as stated in the preamble to all the treaties we have signed, even when Mrs Thatcher was the signatory.

Now Lady Thatcher is well aware that John Major's majority relies on persuading tiresome Tory MP malcontents not to commit hari-kari, and on convincing Northern Irish Unionists that permanent peace will be secured without Ulster submitting to Dublin's control. She reads the opinion polls showing the enormous Labour lead, which cannot be surmounted if the voters worry that the Tories are crippled by irrelevant internecine strife. She regards John Major as the best leader available, and would think it fatal to challenge him; he might lose to someone of whom she would think the opposite. So why does she appear to undermine him, though all her instincts tell her how vital it is to the country that he win the next election?

Some prime ministers and leaders have criticised or hampered their successors, although it is unusual. Attlee, Churchill, Baldwin never did. But Macmillan, who bitterly wished he could reverse his own resignation, hurtfully sneered at Mrs Thatcher's privatising as "selling the family silver". Mrs Thatcher was a 16-hour-a-day, hands-on Prime Minister. Magnificently, she pulled Britain up by the bootstraps, restored our pride and put us back to nearly the place at the world's top table Churchill once occupied. With unremitting energy, she fought through reforms in industry, in trade unions, home ownership and taxation which had been thought impossible. She was cruelly deposed by cowardly Tory MPs who feared that her temporary unpopularity would lose their seats, though she was fast recovering in the polls and would have won as before.

She was at the peak of her powers, and could not reconcile herself to being unable to exercise them any longer. To all great and still active prime ministers, loss of office is an excruciating wound. Like others before her, she turned to writing her memoirs, but as the preacher remarked in the last chapter of Ecclesiastes, "Of making many books there is no end: And much study is a weariness of the flesh". It is not that she disagrees with what Mr Major is trying to do, but that she cannot help saying to herself — and sometimes aloud — "I would have done it my way and done it better."

But it is pointless now to argue who did what and why about joining the ERM and whether we went in at the right exchange rate. Or whether we stayed in the ERM too long and how much good or harm it did us. Or why we signed the Maastricht treaty, which I am sure Lady Thatcher would have done too, however reluctantly, while gaining similar concessions. Dwelling on such comparative trivialities depreciates her own prowess. The thrust of her administration has been maintained, and her principal victories are irreversible. There was a world recession, which Britain alone could not prevent. But because of what she built, we came out of it first with a leaner, more efficient industry and business than ever, and now lead Europe in mounting prosperity, falling unemployment and sustainable growth without inflation. I am confident that when the election campaign begins in earnest, Lady Thatcher will be rooting for Mr Major and urging the Tory troops to rally behind the leader she chose.

Conran shock

SIR TERENCE CONRAN was at the centre of a controversy over undergarments yesterday at the Chelsea Flower Show, where he has designed a 1945 Victory Garden for the Imperial War Museum. He was caught washing his smalls late on Sunday evening in a neighbour's garden pond.

The underwear in question, a pair of silk Michael Winner-sized pants, are the first to have been displayed at Chelsea, which opens to the public today. They hang on a

line in Conran's garden, alongside a black, woolen "utility" pair admired by Norma Major when she visited the garden yesterday.

"I thought I would give them a quick wash to get out the creases before I hung them up — they had been folded away for so long," said Conran. The pond that he used is the centrepiece of *Country Living* magazine's garden. The editor, Francine Lawrence, remonstrated with him. "I went straight up to him and said: 'I hear you have

been washing your drawers in my pond'. He was blatantly unashamed — it's clearly something he has done before. His neighbours should beware."

Conran, meanwhile, was preoccupied with his VIP guest. Waiting by the marrow-covered Anderson shelter in his garden for Norma to arrive, he said: "I think that will be absolutely the right place for her. I hope she brings her husband."

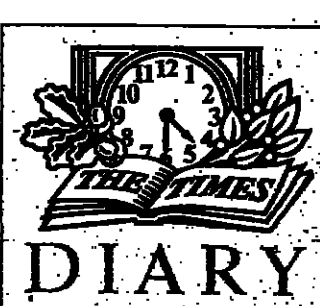
Truncated

THE DISTINGUISHED astronomer Patrick Moore turned out at Chelsea to support the Alzheimer's Disease Society and its display, "A Garden of Memories". It was his first visit to the show, and most probably his last.

"I feel strongly about Alzheimer's, but gardening is not my thing," he explained. "I once had a very stately tree in my garden. It obscured Jupiter, so very quickly it became a stump."

Off pat

PATSY KENSIT, in Cannes for the screening of her latest film, *Angels and Insects*, has proved herself a big draw for frustrated motorists. A scene in the movie required moths to swarm around her. But this



Order, order

FOR A Cabinet minister it would have been a fate worse than death — delivering a major speech to an empty Parliament while the national team was playing the opening game of the Rugby World Cup just a few miles away.

South Africa's Education Minister, Sibusiso Bhengu, tried his best to swap his Thursday slot with other ministers, but there were no takers. As it turns out, he need not have worried. Parliament's rugby-lovers succeeded in having the Thursday afternoon session scrapped altogether.

Nomenklatura

HER LADYSHIPS' decision to pour scorn on John Major's leadership has presented politicians with a problem of etiquette. When responding to her polemic in the media, what should they call the former Prime Minister? Kenneth Clarke always refers to her as "Margaret". Major opts for the more formal "Lady Thatcher". Those on the European wing tend to stick to a sharply articulated

"She" — as if comparing her to Rider Haggard's fictional goddess who considered herself immortal. But most illuminating perhaps is the mode of address chosen by her arch-enemy, Michael Heseltine. Ignoring her peerage, he repeatedly calls her "Mrs Thatcher".

Spirit of pain

ROLLS-ROYCE has invited the honky-tonk pianist Ross Conway, whose left thumb was nearly severed in March, when the door of his Roller slammed on it, to spend the day at the company factory in Crewe, seeing how Rolls-Royce



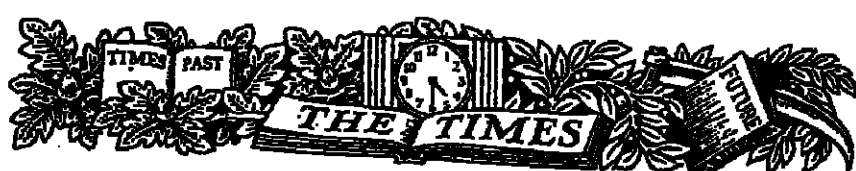
doors are made. Conway, aged 69, whose hits included *Sideshow*, *Roulette* and *China Tea*, was told that if his car had been new, it would have been severed completely. As it was, surgeons managed to save it.

Stevie Wonder, who played at the Albert Hall last night, revealed his one overwhelming ambition. The blind pop star wants to drive a car. "I will go out some where into the desert where I'm not going to hurt anybody. I want to be talking to my money on the phone and driving."

P.H.S



Sir Terence, with underwear from Britain's finest hour



BATTLE TO COMPETE

Heseltine's measures may be worthy but will not impress

To judge by the speeches delivered yesterday by Tony Blair and Michael Heseltine, the battle of economic ideas before the next general election will not be over the lush political pastures of taxes, interest rates and public spending; instead it will cover such barren and unfamiliar territory as business training levies, export credit guarantees and temporary rebate arrangements for national insurance. The consensus on the big macroeconomic issues should suit Mr Blair. He can only benefit if attention is deflected from the core issues of taxes, inflation and fiscal crises which largely account for the public's residual fears about Labour.

For his own part, the President of the Board of Trade, in presenting his Competitiveness White Paper, was reluctant to draw any connection between the dramatic improvement in Britain's manufacturing and export performance and the equally dramatic shift in macroeconomic policy that occurred when the Government left the ERM. There is little doubt, however, on this score among most of the businessmen at the "sharp end" of British exporting, to use a favourite Heseltine phrase.

The fall in the pound and the easing of interest rates since 1992 has had much more to do with the marked improvement in manufacturing industry's business prospects and in the outlook for British trade, investment and employment than all of the 300 "competitiveness commitments" made in last year's White Paper. According to the President's proud boast, the Government has started to make good on some 297 of these 300 promises. The trouble is that nobody, even in the business community, seems to remember what most of them were about.

In most cases, Mr Heseltine's promises involved Government inaction rather than action. With the exception of the growing emphasis on science and technology policies

at Cabinet office level, deregulation and consultation were the main themes of the first competitiveness White Paper. Yesterday's effort continued in the same vein. On the idea of education and training credits, Mr Heseltine promised a consultation paper. On public spending and procurement, he promised even greater emphasis on open tendering and contracting out to the private sector. On industrial investment, he expressed confidence that the private sector would make the right decisions as long as it was freed from red tape.

In principle Mr Heseltine's *laissez faire* approach has much to commend it. But it is unlikely to inspire businessmen's animal spirits. The Government, as evidenced by yesterday's debate on the White Paper in parliament, seems reluctant to embrace the one type of deregulation with genuine popular appeal — a serious campaign against the over-zealous enforcement of regulations by its own officials.

In any battle between rival industrial shopping lists, victory is unlikely to go to Mr Heseltine's strange combination of hyperactive interventionist rhetoric and *laissez faire* reality — not when so much of his deregulation is apparently aimed at undoing the meddling of 16 years of Tory government and when the alternative is the sort of modest and inexpensive action on training, long-term unemployment and financial reform proposed by Mr Blair yesterday.

The reality of a Labour Government might, of course, be very different. But as long as Mr Heseltine and other Ministers refuse to acknowledge the true reason for the present economic resurgence — the more sensible monetary policies followed by the Government since it broke its European shackles in 1992 — voters and businessmen alike will believe that economic policy in Britain is now a contest between Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee.

WEDDED TO CONFLICT

Sleeping with the enemy is no bar to professionalism

The gloves are off at the Transport and General Workers' Union, where Bill Morris has enlisted the leadership battle by attacking his moderate rival, Jack Dromey, husband of the Shadow Employment Secretary Harriet Harman, on the grounds that if Dromey won, the union's policies would be "carved up over the dinner table".

The prospect of an Employment Secretary being married to a trade union leader, however tame, has a certain piquancy. So far, most politicians with spouses in a related career have endeavoured to avoid clashes which might call forth echoes of Romeo and Juliet: "wedded to calamity" because of their other loyalties. The wife of the Shadow Home Secretary, Jack Straw, is a senior Treasury official. While he has had an eclectic mix of shadow portfolios, Mr Straw has stayed clear of areas directly affected by her job. The husband of Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, is a former comprehensive school teacher and member of the National Union of Teachers, although he was retired by the time she took the job.

The implications of sleeping with the enemy have always excited the public's curiosity. In the 1949 film *Adam's Rib*, Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn played a married couple acting as opposing attorneys in a murder case. Ten years ago, a California court allowed an appeal in an assault case based on the defendant's complaint that his lawyer and the prosecution counsel had enjoyed "an ongoing dating relationship" during the trial.

But the increase in high-flying women — one in five now earn more than their husbands — combined with a social shift which means that more professional people

meet their spouse through work than anywhere else, indicates that many more couples will in future have jobs in which there is an element of mutual competition.

The question is whether this in itself constitutes a conflict of interest. So far, the anecdotal evidence suggests that most couples are not only capable of separating their work from their home life, but that they prefer to do so, for the sake of both their relationship and their work.

Since the incursion of women into the citadels of high finance in the 1980s, husbands and wives have occasionally found themselves working for conflicting parties in takeover bids. In journalism and advertising, the high "poaching" rate makes it common for a couple who have met in one place of work to end up employed by competing organisations.

In the fiercely divided world of Washington politics, Mary Matalin and James Carville managed to make it to the altar despite his job running Bill Clinton's 1992 election campaign and hers on George Bush's strategy team. They expect to be fighting their corners once again in 1996.

Mr Morris's outburst shows, not for the first time, that his thinking is trapped in an outdated understanding of the workplace. It ill behoves a union which prides itself on its equal opportunity policies to add to the burden of working women the worry that they may have to answer for the effect of their relationships on their performance.

There are still many questions to be answered about the relationship between the unions and the Labour Party. What Jack Dromey and Harriet Harman discuss at dinner, however, is not one of them.

THE ABILITY ACT

Twenty-five years on: a day to mark a great Act of Parliament

Today the House of Commons will pay tribute to a path-breaking Private Member's Act that has brought benefit to millions of Britons and respectful imitation from around the world. In the 25 years since the passage of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, one or other section of it has been used by disabled people an estimated 12 million times. The Act has set a pattern for the social integration of thousands with permanent handicaps which has become a model for other countries.

Alf Morris, the Labour MP who was the father of the Act and became the world's first Minister for Disabled People in Harold Wilson's 1974 Government, can take justifiable pride in what has been achieved. More important, however, than the additional allowances, the obligations laid on local authorities and the proper provision of hospital care for the chronically sick — all of which were boosted by the Act's broad scope — has been the change in social attitudes.

It is now generally recognised that physical handicap must not be a barrier to a full life. As far as possible, the aim of all legislation, healthcare and architectural modification should be independence for those suffering disability. If there is a common thread uniting children with special needs, young people in long-stay hospitals, older people in geriatric wards and people limited by disease or accident, it is a determination not to be institutionalised. Not all changes have come about by benign enlightenment. The Disability

Discrimination Bill, making it unlawful to discriminate against the handicapped, has seen almost two years of argument over the definition of disability and the scope of the proposed design and transport modifications now required to accommodate the disabled. By accepting the spirit of Labour amendments, the Government now hopes to create bipartisan support for the Bill, which came up for its second Lords reading yesterday. But the campaign for its passage has encouraged militancy among some.

America has gone further than Britain in insisting on ramps, lifts and special provision; empowered by similar legislation, American disabled groups have been quick to sue employers and Government for discrimination. Billions of dollars have been spent modifying federal government facilities. But this has been at the cost of an angry backlash. The hugely expensive provision for the disabled is cited as a reason for the soaring cost of government; architects have despaired of the more extravagant demands; and some local authorities have had to close public amenities rather than face lawsuits over the failure to adapt them.

In Britain, the atmosphere is less confrontational. It may take years before the London Underground is adapted to take wheelchairs. Some campaigners believe a more aggressive approach would bring quicker results. But litigation rarely wins friends or changes perceptions. More effective than lawsuits is good legislation. The 1970 Act set a shining example.

Stormy take-off for Terminal 5

From Mr Peter Cumming

Sir, Commendably, your four-page feature (May 16) marking the start of the Heathrow Terminal 5 inquiry, contained probably enough information for the inspector, Mr Roy Vandermere, QC, to reach his conclusions now.

As one who, when an inspector, occasionally had the pleasure of being addressed by him, I have no reason to question his abilities. I just marvel at his anticipated powers of endurance. Planning laws that lead to three years and £10 million being spent evaluating a planning application are a seriously flawed method of dealing with policy.

Any administration faced with the issues of TS cannot possibly risk jeopardising the role of Heathrow as the international global aviation hub. It is axiomatic that if Britain wants to keep its airports' first-division position Mr Vandermere can only recommend approval.

After the 1998 expected approval of TS, ministers will face the next aviation hurdle of runway capacity. By then, the error of the recent failure to approve a planning application for reliever runway capacity for Gatwick will be all too apparent.

Your correspondent, Chris Lockwood, rightly draws our attention to government's omissions in making a "key decision" over South East runway issues. In my view, any incoming government will have to treat South East runway provision as a matter of great urgency fully on a par with the TS issue.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CUMMING,
34 Savernake Road, NW3,
May 17.

From Councillor Barbara Reid

Sir, It is beyond my comprehension how the six senior businessmen who wrote to you (letter, May 16) in support of Terminal 5 can believe that a development that calls for at least 40,000 more flights a year, at least 30 million more passengers a year and the daily filling of an additional 13,000 car parking spaces will not result in more noise, more pollution and more traffic congestion. It defies all logic that such an increase in traffic would not ultimately result in pressure for a third runway, more night flights and greater road capacity.

The additional jobs your correspondents refer to are the applicant's (BAA) figures and are therefore not a little subjective. However, as businessmen they know that the creation of jobs is not in itself justification for granting planning permission and that economic factors are always balanced by the environmental impact on local residents.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA REID,
London Borough of Hounslow,
Civic Centre, Lampton Road,
Hounslow, Middlesex,
May 17.

From Mr A. J. Lucking

Sir, I believe that Sir Rocco Forte and others underestimate the employment case for Terminal 5. As well as the 16,500 jobs at the airport, many more will be preserved and created in companies dependent on air transport. And between February 1990 and March 1994, unemployment within 15 miles of Heathrow rose from 86,000 to 231,000. Unemployment, under-employment and job anxieties amongst the over-40s are our worst national problem and certainly dwarf 15 per cent more aircraft and perhaps as few as 5 per cent more cars around the airport.

Heathrow is the nation's business airport, and arguably the most important place in Britain. The business share of the traffic is forecast to rise to 53 per cent, with half the remainder foreign tourists. So the popular concept of air transport — holiday charabans with wings that upset the local residents — is wrong in the case of Heathrow. And I wonder if the political axiom, that the environmentalists' vote for one side, and the unemployed for the other, is still valid.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. LUCKING,
20-17 Broad Court, WC2,
May 16.

From Mr Roy Newson

Sir, Reports of the TS inquiry opening have inferred a battle between those anti the terminal (local residents) and those pro (airport employees). This over-simplification ignores the fact that employees are also residents of the area and opinion poll evidence suggests that a majority of residents support TS, especially if specific concerns are met.

As a local resident I live under the westerly landing flightpath and have done for 18 years. I consider the proposed TS to be a major achievement of design and environmental engineering, one of which we will eventually all be proud.

The opponents of TS concentrate much of their case on what was or wasn't said or promised when T4 was proposed. The truth is that having had T4 in existence for some time now we can see all those dismal prophecies of accidents, transport saturation and pollution have not come to pass.

Yours faithfully,
ROY NEWSON,
13 Ridgeway Road,
Isleworth, Middlesex,
May 18.

Eliminating 'ambushes' in court

From Mr Michael Bromley-Martin

Sir, "So there will be no more dramatic ambushes which render the whole prosecution effort a waste of time," writes Janet Daley (May 18) on the Home Secretary's recommendation that an outline of the defence be made known to the prosecution before trial. This is nonsense. Mrs Daley shouldn't believe that what happens in Perry Mason happens in real life.

In 15 years as both a prosecuting and defending barrister I have never been in a case where either I was "ambushed" by the defence with a last-minute witness, nor, sadly, one where I was able to "ambush" the prosecution in the same way.

The suggestion that "ambushing" is widespread is no more than a cloak to disguise the fact that the Government believes that there should be a shift in the balance in criminal trials away from the defence and towards the prosecution. I make no comment on the rectitude of that policy, but it has got nothing to do with "ambushing".

Mrs Daley alleges that "lawyers now behave as if any trick were permissible" and that "the use of illegitimate means to protect the guilty is bringing our judicial system into disrepute". She should know that there are judges who sit in criminal courts, one of whose purposes is to identify trickery and illegitimacy. If a defence barrister "deliberately causes the abandonment of prosecutions by demanding the identification of police informants" it is because a judge has ruled that justice cannot be done without that disclosure.

The rules are not made by barristers, nor, almost universally, are they broken by them. French lawyers, whose system of criminal justice Mrs Daley would apparently like to see adopted here, are, we understand, keen to adopt ours.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BROMLEY-MARTIN,
3 Raymond Buildings,
Grays Inn, WC1,
May 18.

From Mr Robin Grey, QC

Sir, As one of those "crime-specialist" barristers who have recently received a battering from the press, with a pathetic response from the Bar, I was extremely refreshed to read Janet

Daley's article today. She puts her finger on the real problems in our criminal justice system and criticises with independence of mind, fairness, great economy of language and, above all, intelligence.

Thank you for restoring my blood pressure to normal.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN GREY,
Queen Elizabeth Building,
Temple, EC4,
May 18.

From Mr Christopher Green

Sir, The Home Secretary has pushed the criminal trial closer to darkness with his proposal to limit, yet further, the duty of the Crown to disclose information to the defence. Thus the defence might be denied the opportunity to search unused prosecution material for evidence which could assist the accused.

We must take it that those who advise him, and, who understand the criminal justice system, will have told him that open justice demands full disclosure. I expect that the Home Secretary himself comprehends that equal access to evidence and any other material in the hands of the Crown, does no more than place the prosecution and the defence on an equal footing; full disclosure by the Crown does not give the defence any advantage.

We would also take it that Michael Howard has not forgotten that most of the recent and notorious miscarriages of justice which led to the setting up of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice which reported in 1993 were brought about, wholly, or in part, by a failure on the part of the Crown to disclose material to the defence.

I expect members of the public will reckon that it had not escaped Michael Howard's notice that his announcement for the accused was made even as the Police Federation met in conference.

Unhappily, the public may be less certain that he is guided by a determination to ensure fairness in the criminal trial.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER GREEN,
Claude Hornby & Cox (solicitors),
35/36 Great Marlborough Street, W1,
May 18.

Population issues

From Lord Vernon

Sir, David Alton, MP (letter, May 9), berates the Duke of Edinburgh for his attitude towards family size limitation, and goes on to suggest that poverty, not family size, is the cause of the present population crisis.

If a very poor country is doubling its population in 24 years (Burundi and Bolivia) or 29 years (Bangladesh), to give only a few examples from 1994 published statistics, any economic benefits which may be achieved by a government are more than swallowed up by the additional mouths which have to be fed.

The "contraceptive activists", as Mr Alton calls them, in Bangladesh are bringing in their wake smaller families which are healthier, happier and less hungry; and in the longer term, huge environmental benefits will follow.

The Duke of Edinburgh, by pointing to the dangers of over-population and the importance of limiting family size, has given an outstanding lead to those of us who care about the future of our planet. We should all be very grateful to him.

Yours faithfully,
VERNON
(Chairman, Population Concern,
1984-89),
Sudbury House,
Sudbury, Derbyshire,
May 11.

From Mr Robert Whelan

Sir, There seems to be an underlying assumption that groups and individuals professionally involved in the promotion of population programmes

are in favour of allowing Third World women to decide on their family size, whilst those opposing them are not. In fact, the opposite assumption would be nearer the mark.

Third World parents are coerced by many instruments, including the manipulation of welfare and tax benefits, by making jobs and housing in the public sector dependent on small family size, by the use of subsidised food or job training programmes for those who comply with the population programme, and so on.

The true feelings of the professional population lobbyists regarding reproductive freedom are revealed by their neglect of one of the most severe gynaecological problems in many developing countries — infertility. The dilemma which many women, particularly in Africa, face is not too many children, but too few.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT WHELAN,
13 Norfolk House,
Courtlands, Sheen Road,
Richmond, Surrey,
May 13.

From Mr John Davies

Sir, David Alton argues that a study of Irish history proves that family size reduces with prosperity. I suppose, by that token, the same could be said of, say, Spain and Italy. Is he suggesting that self-control increases with prosperity?

David Alton and the Vatican must one day surely accept that huge numbers of Roman Catholics use artificial means of birth control.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DAVIES,
54 Cheddar Close, Eton, Cleveland.

Universities league

From Mr Edwin Bowater

Sir, I read with interest that Cambridge still leads *The Times* universities league table ("Cambridge still top — by a whisker", May 19). Last year I spent approximately eight months attempting to gain a postgraduate placement at a German university, but was eventually turned down on the basis that the Cambridge degree was, in their opinion, "only equivalent to a German polytechnic degree".

Is this an indication of Britain's falling standards with respect to mainland Europe? Or is it another example of Britain's failure to carry any influence within Europe (Alan Clark's letter, May 19)? Considering the wealth of bureaucracy involved during this eight-month ordeal and the lack of support from any British institution, I am convinced of the latter.

Yours faithfully,
EDWIN BOWATER,
11 Claremont Road, Claygate, Surrey,
May 19.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Poverty and the Jobseekers Bill

From the Chief Executive of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux

Sir, Tuesday, May 23, is the last chance for peers to amend the Government's controversial Jobseekers Bill before it becomes law. Last week's announcement (report, May 17) of a six-month delay in implementing large parts of the Bill betrays, in my view, a degree of official nervousness about its likely impact rather than simply concern over computer programs. This is hardly surprising when some unemployed people will be left penniless for up to six months as a result of failing the tough new tests that will become a condition of receiving benefit under this legislation.

Citizens Advice Bureaux already see daily the hardship experienced by people forced to live on a greatly reduced income under current benefit sanctions. In one case a young woman was struggling to survive on £10.50 a week and had not eaten for four days when she visited the CAB. She could not afford to use the electricity in her flat. She had a summons for poll tax arrears and said that if she went to prison she would at least be warm and fed for a few weeks.

Under jobseeker plans, around 145,000 people a year, who previously would have been entitled to means-tested benefit at a reduced rate, will have to rely on discretionary hardship payments. Healthy, single people and childless couples will not even have access to these for the first two weeks. The most vulnerable claimants — pregnant women, those with children, and sick and disabled people — will have to plead their case. Current estimates suggest that more than half of those who apply for hardship payments will be refused.

A penalty which forces unemployed people to exist on the verge of destitution for up to six months is not only inhumane, and out of all proportion to the offence they are supposed to have committed, it does nothing to help them into work. Peers have already demonstrated deep concern about the Bill. On Tuesday they have the opportunity to maintain the basic protection against destitution enshrined in our social security system.

Yours faithfully,
ANN ABRAHAM,
Chief Executive,
Citizens Advice Bureau,
Myddelton House,
115-123 Pentonville Road, N1,
May 22.

What is a song?

From Mr Anthony L. Pettit

Sir, Even that strangest of competitions, the Eurovision Song Contest, must have rules as to the eligibility of the "songs" entered, and it would be interesting to know what they are after the victory of Norway on May 13.

On timing the re-run at the conclusion of the contest I found that the words constituted some 40 seconds of a three-minute piece of music.

Stanley Glasser in *The Classic-FM A-Z of Classical Music* defines a song as "a form of musical expression uttered by solo voice presenting a text, with or without instrumental accompaniment". Norway's entry seemed to me to be almost the diametrical opposite.

Yours etc,
A. PETTIT,
15 Wellclose Dale, Church Gresley,
Swadlincote, Derbyshire,
May 14.

Portrait or bust

From Mr A. C. W. Lean

Sir, The fuss over the proposed bust of Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, departing director of the Victoria & Albert Museum (News in brief, May 15), recalls the debate in an Oxford college as to whether heads of college should be commemorated by sculpture or portraits.

Portraits every time, was the conclusion; they stack much more easily.

Yours etc,
ANDREW LEAN,
17 Stockwell Park Road, SW9.

Switched off

From Mr W. A. Twemlow

Sir, Mrs Harris (letter, May 12) should count herself lucky to be able to listen to *Greensteens* when "on hold" — even though adding to BT's profits in the process. On one number which I call regularly, I have to listen to a squeaky electronic organ playing *Für Elise* in 5/4 time. Beethoven would turn in his grave.

Yours truly,
W. A. TWEMLOW,
10 Eddisbury Road,
West Kirby, Wirral, Merseyside.

Faithful cuckoo

From Mr Michael P. Walters

Sir, Surely Lord Kilbracken (letter, May 22) has erred in applying the term "cuckold". It is not the male cuckoo which is cuckolded, but the host species in whose nest the female cuckoo "dumps" her egg.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL P. WALTERS,
5 Cambrion Road, Richmond, Surrey,
May 22.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

May 22: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Chelsea Flower Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3. Lady Dugdale and Lieutenant Colonel Sir Guy Adair, Rt. were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Young People, this evening attended a Dinner at the Gala Preview Evening of the Chelsea Flower Show in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

By Command of The Queen, the Baroness Miller of Hendon (Baroness in Waiting) Called Upon the Governor-General of Solomon Islands and Lady Pinalola this morning at the Canizaro House Hotel, Wimbledon, London SW19, and, on behalf of Her Majesty, welcomed their Excellencies on their Arrival in this Country.

May 22: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), this morning visited the 1st Battalion at Fort George, Inverness, and was received by the Lord Campbell of Croy (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Nairn). Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Chelsea Flower Show, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3. Lady Carey Pole was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

May 22: The Prince of Wales today visited Cumbria and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr James Cropper).

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, this morning visited the Enderdale Water Treatment Works.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, the

National Trust Centenary Appeal, afterwards visited the National Trust Centre, Warrandale.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Field Studies Council, later opened the Blencathra Centre, Threlkeld, Keswick.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, the National Trust Centenary Appeal, this afternoon visited Fell Foot Country Park, Windermer.

His Royal Highness later visited the Armit Trust, the Armit Library, Ambleside. Major Patrick Tabor was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

May 22: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this evening visited the Chelsea Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

May 22: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, National Missing Persons Project, attended a Luncheon to launch "The Missing Train 1995" project, South End House, Montpelier Row, Twickenham, Middlesex.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon visited the Chelsea Flower Show, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3. Mrs Howard Page and Major Nicholas Barne were in attendance.

May 22: The Duke of Kent this afternoon attended the Royal Horticultural Society's Annual Chelsea Flower Show, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3. Captain Marcus Barnett was in attendance.

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Overseas exhibits reach high standard

By ALAN TOOGOOD
HORTICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

TO THE casual observer the Chelsea Flower Show, which today, may look the same each year, but there is much that is new or different, especially among the plants and flowers in the great marquee.

This year the overseas exhibits are of a particularly high standard and include a newcomer, the City of Melbourne, showing cut flowers and foliage of Australia. The exhibit is representative of the continent, with habitats ranging from the sea and the coast, through scrubland to dry inland desert.

The plants range from tree ferns to banksias with fat orange flower heads and kangaroo paws with fiery red flowers.

Returning to Chelsea is the São Paulo Garden Club from Brazil, who have created a tropical garden in honour of the late Brazilian garden designer and planter, Roberto Burle Marx. He pioneered the use of native plants and the exhibit incorporates many of the characteristics of his designs, such as bold plantings of different colours.

The Barbados Horticultural Society of Christ Church, regular Chelsea exhibitors, are featuring cut flowers that are grown for export. Subjects such as highly coloured alpinias (gingers), anthuriums and heliconias have been massed around the ruins of an old sugar mill.

Overseas exhibitors are not the only ones showing exotic plants. Abbotsbury Sub Tropical Gardens, of Weymouth, Dorset, have a display of foliage and flowering plants that are grown in the gardens, including the hardy banana, *Musa ensae*, and *Echium justolium* with tall spikes of blue

flowers. Birmingham City Council makes a welcome return after two years with a floral spectacular which includes a giant globe formed from carpet bedding plants (almanthus), thought to be the largest three-dimensional carpet bed ever made. This is surrounded by lavish displays of tropical and other pot plants, including a new pink poinsettia named "Pink Peppermint". The exhibit, funded by *Gardener's World*, is to be staged at Centenary Square, Birmingham, after the show.

The story of the oak is the theme of the exhibit from Mallet Court Nursery, of Taunton, Somerset,



Norma Major walks through the Imperial War Museum's Victory Garden at the Chelsea show

which features many rare oaks. Many of the large exhibits of trees, shrubs and other hardy plants include new introductions: Hillier Nurseries, of Ampfield, Hampshire, are featuring *Jasminum 'Pina Sunrise'*, a jasmine with golden foliage; Nichols Garden Centres, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, are showing *Rhododendron 'Gold Krone'*, with pale yellow flowers speckled with crimson, and a small-growing yellow-leaved Holly, *ilex 'alenua'* ("Sunny Foster"). *Barnwell*, have an unusual hydrangea named "Hobelia" whose flowers open

pink, then turn green and finally blue, and a climbing dicentra, *D. macrocarpa*, with pendulous yellow flowers; and Bressingham Gardens, of Diss, Norfolk, have among their hardy plants a new deep pink flowered strawberry, *Fragaria 'Red Ruby'*, and *Eryngium 'Jos Eijking'*, a sea holly that glows lavender blue from top to bottom.

Some new American fuchsias shown as trained plants by Oldbury Nurseries, of Betheredon, Kent, look promising: "Marcus Graham" with huge double orange-pink flowers, and the white and lilac double "Wendy's Beauty".

There are many perennials at Chelsea but the most revolutionary zonal cultivar must be "Bodiam's Surprise", raised by Jack Bodiam, of Chwyd, North Wales, and shown by the British European Geranium Society, of Shoburness, Essex. It has yellow flowers, hitherto an elusive colour in perennials.

Many new roses are at the show including some English ones from David Austin Roses, of Abingdon, West Midlands: "Pat Austin" with deeply cupped copper yellow flowers, and "Noble Anthony" with very double, heavily scented magenta crimson blooms. The 1995 Rose of the Year, the bright pink ground-cover cultivar "Chatsworth", being featured in the joint exhibit of the Royal National Rose Society, the British Association Representing Breeders and the British Rose Growers' Association, of Chiswell Green, Hertfordshire.

Stapleley Water Gardens, of Northwich, Cheshire, have tried a different way of displaying their aquatics and water lilies this year to bring them nearer to visitors: water lily blooms and leaves are floating in black trays of clear gel, and the marginal plants are growing in trays of black gravel. A new and promising marginal plant is included, *Cypella aquatilis*, which produces yellow blooms like those of a lily and a tiger lily.

The private view for RHS members is today and tomorrow. The show, in the grounds of the Royal Horticultural Society, is open to the public on Thursday from 10am to 5pm and Friday from 10am to 5pm. Admission is by ticket only (adult £12, children £6, concessions £8). Information line: 0171 823 1744.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.J. Beside and Miss H.D. Potter. The engagement is announced between Daniel John, son of the Reverend and Mrs Derek Beside, of Otford, East Sussex, and Harriet Diana, daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Potter, of Horsed Keynes, West Sussex.

Mr J. Clarke and Miss E. Cable. The engagement is announced between Jon, younger son of Mrs Norma Clarke and the late Mr Christopher Clarke, of Gee Cross, Cheshire, and Emma, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Cable, of Stevenshill, Harnage, Shrewsbury.

Mr J.C.W. Davenport and Miss S.J. Colley. The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Roy Davenport, of Poole, Dorset, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Professor and Mrs John Colley, of Lower Failand, Bristol.

Mr R.W.A. Eveleigh and Miss J.H. Seward. The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr Edward Eveleigh and the late Lady Eveleigh, of Kennington, London, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leonard Seward, of Broadbourne, Hertfordshire.

Mr J.C. Malins Smith and Dr A.J. Cook. The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of the late Major and Mrs S.G. Malins Smith, of Grangeview, Mairhouses, Carriden, West Lothian, and Alison, daughter of Mr M.J. Eagle, of Eagle House, West Moor, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Mr N.A. Yelland and Miss A.J. Moberly. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Yelland, of Miffield, West Yorkshire, and Alice, daughter of the Rev Richard and Mrs Moberly, of Clapham, London.

Mr J.D. Puddifant and Miss L.V. Evans. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of the late Dr Derek Puddifant and of Mrs Diana Puddifant, of Stock, Essex, and Lindsey, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.S. Evans, of Kerwell, Devon.

Mr S.G. Tattersall and Miss A.C.L. Bearcroft. The marriage will take place on September 2, in France, of Simon, third son of Dr R.E. Tattersall and Mrs H.J. Tattersall, of the British Virgin Islands, and Anna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs F.A. Bearcroft, of Hornchurch, Essex.

Mr S.W. Colledge and Miss G. Haselden. The marriage took place on Saturday, April 29, 1995, at Fettes College Chapel, Edinburgh, of Simon, younger son of Mr and Mrs James Colledge, to Gillian, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Haselden. The Rev Ashley Nall officiated.

Mr H.D.M. Pether and Miss C.S. Forrester. The marriage took place on Saturday, May 20, at St Paul's Church, Isle of Mull, between Mr Hugh Pether, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Pether, and Miss Chloe Forrester, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Rory Forrester. The Bishop of Argyll and The Isles conducted the service, assisted by the Rev Dr William Pollock.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, attended by Lucy Forrester, Charlotte Adam, William and Kieron Howard, Natasha Rabin-Williams, Oliver Kleingeld, Tom Sandberg and Jeremia Knight. Mr John Pether was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

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The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, attended by Lucy Forrester, Charlotte Adam, William and Kieron Howard, Natasha Rabin-Williams, Oliver Kleingeld, Tom Sandberg and Jeremia Knight. Mr John Pether was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

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OBITUARIES

Les Aspin, former Democratic Congressman and first Secretary of Defence in the Clinton Administration, died after a stroke in Washington on May 21 aged 56. He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on July 21, 1938.

LES ASPIN was the first Cabinet casualty of the Clinton Administration. A well-known figure on both sides of the Atlantic — he was for years a regular attendee at Anglo-American conferences such as those held at Ditchley Park — the initial news of his appointment was undoubtedly reassuring to the European allies of the United States. But he soon proved to be one of those legislators whom executive office finds out. The 12 months he spent in charge of the Pentagon turned out to be an unhappy experience both for him and for the vast US war machine. Charitably allowed by President Clinton to remain in office until the first anniversary of his appointment, he was politically a dead duck well before then.

Yet Aspin — a serious, rumpled-looking figure with very much the air of the academic he had once been — was unquestionably a man of parts. A brilliant scholar, he graduated *summa cum laude* from Yale before going as a Rhodes Scholar in 1960 to Oxford where he read PPE and made many lasting English friends.

His first experience of the executive arm of government was in 1963 as a staff assistant to Walter Heller, at that time chairman of President Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisors. Under the then prevailing draft system he subsequently went into the Army attaining the rank of captain by the end of his period of service, much of it spent in the Pentagon.

Since as a politician he entered Congress on an anti-Vietnam platform and had spent the first part of his Capitol Hill career in violent opposition to the Pentagon, he might have seemed an unlikely choice for the post of Defence Secretary when



Bill Clinton started forming his Administration at the end of 1992. But by that time he had already served eight years as chairman of the powerful House Armed Services Committee and had long since abandoned the ranks of the congressional doves for those of the hawks.

Nor was that the first U-turn in his career. One of Robert McNamara's whiz-kids during the latter's period as Secretary of Defence from 1961 to 1967, Aspin was initially sufficient of a supporter of the Vietnam War to serve as Lyndon Johnson's campaign manager in the Wisconsin primary of the spring of 1968.

It proved a forlorn cause. Indeed, by the time polling day came round at the beginning of April, Aspin's candidate had already withdrawn, leaving the field open for a crushing victory for the "peace candidate", Senator Eugene McCarthy. Aspin then took a job as an assistant professor of economics at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

From there he fought his first

LES ASPIN

election in 1970 as Democratic candidate for the House of Representatives in Wisconsin's first congressional district. He was elected against an incumbent by the largest margin achieved by any challenger that year.

Aspin began to make his mark as soon as he reached Capitol Hill as the most junior member of the Armed Services Committee. Week after week he issued press releases accusing the Pentagon of wasteful spending on everything from shipbuilding to the care of officers' pets at government expense. He railed against the cosy relationship between the generals and senior politicians, and (perhaps forgetting his own past in which he had played a modest part in the so-called "pacification programme" in South Vietnam) he relentlessly attacked the Nixon Administration's policies in South-East Asia. But at the same time he felt frustrated. "You're a junior member of a committee," he explained to a reporter, "and you don't have the leverage of a subcommittee or committee chairman, so what do you do?"

What Aspin did was to get himself that leverage as soon as he could. In 1975 he was one of the leaders of a coup which ousted the then chairman of the Armed Services Committee, a crusty and noted hawk from Louisiana named F. Edward Hebert, and replaced him with the more malleable Melvin Price of Illinois.

Ten years later it was Price's turn. Aspin organised another coup, this time on his own behalf, and vaulted over more senior members of the committee in defiance of convention to become chairman himself.

By this time Aspin's politics had turned to the right. He had shed his glibly admitted and become recognised as a serious student of the military, developing the very kind of relationship with the Pentagon that he had so criticised in the past. He supported the development of the multi-warhead MX missile, which many of his liberal colleagues thought was not only too expensive but a positive threat to peace, and he defended the Reagan Administration's policy of

support for the Contra rebels in their war against the Government of Nicaragua.

This was too much for many Democrats, including a surprising number of conservatives, and in 1987 they tried to strip Aspin of his chairmanship. But, after a fortnight's interregnum, he won it back. He went on to argue forcefully in favour of the Bush Administration's policies in the Gulf, writing just before the House voted in favour of military action: "I believe prospects are high for a rapid victory with light to moderate American casualties, perhaps three to five thousand including 500 to 1,000 dead." Although his forecast was more than vindicated, he was not to be lightly forgiven by the liberal wing of his party who were vociferous in their opposition to him in his twelfth, and final, congressional campaign in Wisconsin.

In 1992 Aspin had joined Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, as a chief adviser on military policy to the then candidate, Bill Clinton. With Clinton's victory, the appointment of one or the other as Secretary of Defence seemed certain, and the choice of Aspin over the more abrasive and belligerent Nunn was hailed in many quarters as a wise one.

Doubts were expressed, however, about his lack of experience in managing such a huge establishment as the Pentagon, and over the next year these proved to be well founded. Initially, he had always thought of graduating from the House to the Senate — and this would almost certainly have proved a more appropriate métier for him.

It was Aspin's misfortune to come to office at a moment of considerable turmoil both on the international scene and within the Pentagon itself. It soon became apparent that he lacked the sort of close relationship with Clinton enjoyed by the Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, or by the White House National Security Adviser, Anthony Lake. Cracks began to appear when he expressed

disagreement with the all-or-nothing approach to military engagement of the then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell, and when he advocated the selective use of American ground troops to support diplomacy in the Bosnian crisis. On the domestic front, Aspin at once found himself handling the hot potato of homosexuals in the armed forces, facing a military establishment outraged at Clinton's campaign promise to permit them to serve. Caught unhappily in the middle of an emotional debate, Aspin finally offered the messy compromise of "Don't ask — Don't tell," which was immediately assailed as being morally dishonest and which certainly succeeded in satisfying neither side in the controversy.

In this, as in his attempts to reform the structure of the US military to meet the post-Cold War situation, Aspin showed himself less than decisive and often unable to close a discussion. He also lacked strong support from the White House in his bid to defend the Pentagon from deep spending cuts being demanded by the Office of Management and Budget.

The incident which led to his departure was his decision not to send in tanks to reinforce American troops in Somalia, just weeks before 18 American soldiers died in a battle with Somali gunmen. Widely criticised, Aspin tendered his resignation after only 11 months in office. Although President Clinton took pains to insist that it was Aspin's own decision, and subsequently appointed him to chair a presidential commission reviewing the operation of US intelligence services, there was little doubt that he had not jumped, he would have been pushed. He was succeeded, after a hiccup with a nominee who withdrew, by his deputy, William J. Perry.

Les Aspin was the son of a Yorkshireman who emigrated to the United States via Canada and died of heart disease at an early age. Divorced in 1979, he never remarried but leaves a longtime partner.

HIS HONOUR JOHN PICKERING

John Pickering, a Circuit Court Judge 1972-84, died on April 25 aged 70. He was born on January 8, 1925.



JOHN PICKERING was a rare case of a barrister who joined the Bar, gave up active practice — only then to return to it and go on to be a judge. His early speciality was defence work for the National Coal Board against injury suits by miners. This led to a book on one of the key Acts governing miners' injuries and a role as deputy chairman of the Benefits Board for Miners' Diseases.

As a judge, he had a versatile career but his later years were marred by a drink-driving conviction, criticisms of indecision and an action for rent arrears. Yet he will be remembered as a highly convivial companion, a man with a sharp intellect who in the end failed to fulfil his promise. John Robertson Pickering was the son of a small-time industrialist. He was sent to school at Winchester, which he "hated", and then went to Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he took a wartime degree in classics, going on to study law. He joined the RNRV, serving in HMS *Reliant*, becoming a lieutenant. He saw action on convoys to Russia and in the Far East. He liked to tell a story of how he had "liberated Hong Kong's gin supplies" on its recapture from the Japanese.

In 1949 he was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple and soon established a practice. Two years later he married Hilde Wright, a widow who had a glamorous French Resistance record.

Having acted for the National Coal Board at the Bar, he eventually joined it as a legal adviser. In 1957 he brought out an annotated study of *The Mines and Quarries Act 1954*. In the later 1950s, through contacts made with the NCB, he went on to Dyson, Bell, parliamentary agents and specialists in promoting Private Bills. But that did not work out and he soon reverted to the Bar.

He built up a strong flow of varied briefs, including work

at the Parliamentary Bar, but also on the Northern Circuit. He also developed a wide span of acquaintances, especially with *Daily Mirror* journalists, including Tom Tullett, his crime reporter, who, together with Percy Hoskins of the *Daily Express*, was often to be seen with Pickering at El Vino in Fleet Street. He was an incisive memory and a strong sense of fun marked his conversational staccato utterances.

Travel, especially to France, and music were also strong passions: he was an active doyen of the Bar Music Society. In the late 1960s he joined No 2 Harcourt Buildings from another set of chambers in No 2 Paper Buildings, and shifted his line of activity to the South-East, partly in order to travel less.

In 1971, he was made Deputy Chairman of North-East London Quarter Sessions, just a year before such courts were phased out in favour of Crown Courts. In 1972 Pickering became a Circuit Judge, a post he held for 12 years. He was much in demand, hearing indictments at the Old Bailey and Southwark and Knightsbridge Crown Courts, but also civil cases as a floating judge in varied county courts. He dealt, too, with undefended divorces in the Family Division at the Royal Courts of Justice.

He retired in 1984. His marriage was dissolved and he leaves a partner, Jeanne Coleman, together with two stepsons and a son from his marriage.

FRANCIS SMITH

Francis Smith, engineer and librarian, died at Meincian, Dyfed, on April 25 aged 85. He was born on August 29, 1909.

FRANCIS SMITH, who was at one time a research assistant and librarian to Sir Barnes Wallis, at Vickers-Armstrongs Research Department at Brooklands, Weybridge, and assisted on a number of advanced projects concerning supersonic aircraft and, as a sideline, on wind-tunnel experiments on the trajectories of cricket balls to explain how — through bowler's wrist action — they could be made to swing.

In 1949 Smith joined the staff of the Royal Aeronautical Society as librarian, where he became a highly regarded authority on its unique aircraft archives and a valued aide to successive presidents. He was a member of the society's delegation to its Anglo-American aeronautical conference with the United States and Canada in New York and Montreal in 1959.

When, in 1967, the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Chartered Institute of Transport and British Rail came together to set up the British Transport Staff College at Woking in Surrey, Frank Smith became its librarian and custodian of archives, in charge of a new and extensive reference library in support of the BTSC's international courses. He retired in 1982 but, sadly, was blind in his later years.

Frank Smith is survived by his wife Phyllis and their three sons.

Greenwich — the destroyer-depot ship at Scapa Flow. Later in the war he served in the aircraft carriers *Indomitable* and *Victorious*.

After the war, he joined Barnes Wallis's Vickers-Armstrongs Research Department at Brooklands, Weybridge, and assisted on a number of advanced projects concerning supersonic aircraft and, as a sideline, on wind-tunnel experiments on the trajectories of cricket balls to explain how — through bowler's wrist action — they could be made to swing.

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bridge. It seemed very doubtful whether it would afford much relief to the traffic of the City. It would increase congestion. He suggested that the City Corporation were so divided among themselves and so uncertain as to the wisdom of the course they had taken that they ought to be the first to welcome a national inquiry into the matter. The London County Council first gave a grudging support to the proposal, which they had since repented, and now proposed that the subject should be examined afresh. He was told that they supported the scheme in the belief that they would be able to bring their tramways across the new bridge into the heart of the City. That idea the City Corporation refused to contemplate, and under the motive which had led the L.C.C. to agree to the scheme had largely disappeared. In the third place, there was told that the authorities of St Paul's Cathedral, alarmed at the risks of vibration to the fabric, and also at what might be called the desecration of the city upon which the piles rested, and which filled them with very genuine doubts as to the further shifting of the building. The opinions of leading art societies and architectural bodies pointed in the same direction.

PREM BHATIA

Prem Bhatia, diplomat, journalist and Editor-in-Chief of *The Tribune*, Chandigarh, India, 1971-85, died in Delhi on May 22 aged 83. He was born on August 11, 1911.

WHEN the Raj bowed out of India in 1947, the English language press was left in the hands of two categories of journalist: the fiercely individualist sons of Westernised Indians, usually blessed with a private income; and those who blundered into journalism having failed to make it to

a subordinate government job.

Prem Bhatia was among the most distinguished members of the first category. Although he never became a household name for his political punditry, he exemplified the most endearing facets of his class — dogged independence, enormous personal integrity and lots of style. These qualities distinguished him from his fellow editors, particularly at a time when Indian politics became increasingly murky and violent.

Bhatia regarded his nine

years from 1977 as Editor-in-Chief of *The Tribune* (published from Chandigarh) as "the golden years of my life". When Punjab was transformed from a sleepy, if prosperous, backwater of Indian politics to the centre of terrorism, and Sikh separatism, Bhatia played a leading role in preventing the state's largest-circulation English daily from becoming a partisan mouthpiece.

It was not easy and in his final article as editor, Bhatia confessed to being involved "in what appeared at times to be a struggle for professional and physical survival".

The Tribune emerged from this turbulence with its reputation considerably enhanced. This owed a great deal to Bhatia's stubborn reluctance to toe the government line. He was no radical or great believer in fashionable theories of self-determination. An old-fashioned pillar of the Establishment, Bhatia knew the true meaning of enlightened self-interest. This meant, above all, overcoming "the special disadvantages of being treated as representing one or the other of the two major communities".

Journalists, Bhatia once wrote, are "usually viewed by the Government as upstarts and pretentious unless, of course, they are on the side of the rulers themselves. But journalists who thus acquire a favourable status run the risk of being branded lap-dogs".

Bhatia probably inhibited this commitment to press independence from his 12 years as bureau chief and political correspondent of *The Statesman*, a venerable conservative daily that prided itself on its lordly detachment from party politics. But, equally, it may have stemmed from his deep roots in the undivided Punjab, his education at Government College, Lahore, his apprenticeship at the *Civil and Military Gazette* and his great love of cricket.

It was this fanatical devotion to a sense of fair play that

attracted Bhatia to Mrs Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Nehru's sister and High Commissioner in London and Ambassador to the Soviet Union. She appointed him First Secretary in the Moscow Embassy. After a successful stint there, Bhatia served as Indian High Commissioner in Kenya, 1965-69, and Singapore, 1969-73.

His three books, *All My Yesterdays*, *Indian Ordeal* in Africa and *Of Many Pastures* were based on his diplomatic experiences.

Before taking up his diplomatic assignments, Bhatia had served as a correspondent of All India Radio, a lieutenant-colonel in the British Indian Army and a member of the Government of pre-1947 undivided Bengal.

Later he was resident editor of the Delhi edition of *The Times of India* and of the *Indian Express*, the former unabashedly pro-Government and the latter pugnazly anti-Establishment.

Bhatia, a familiar figure in Delhi's intensely politicised social circuit, was often thought of as a deracinated oddity by brash colleagues who shared few of his cosmopolitan assumptions. But if the English-language press has prospered and achieved a distinctive Indian identity and influence quite disproportionate to its reach, credit must be given to those, like Bhatia, who doggedly resisted the temptations of compromise and pressures of levelling down.

Prem Bhatia is survived by his wife Shakuntala and by two sons and a daughter.

AN incorrect photograph accompanied the obituary of Colin Scott (May 18).

We regret the error and offer our apologies to Mrs Scott and to her late husband's successor as Governor of Winston Green Prison, Graham Gregory Smith, whose photograph inadvertently appeared.

HOUSE OF LORDS

ST PAUL'S BRIDGE
VISCOUNT BURNHAM called attention to the proposed erection of a bridge over the Thames in the neighbourhood of St Paul's Cathedral, and moved: "That it is desirable that the Fine Arts Committee which had recently been constituted by His Majesty's Government for the express purpose of advising on the artistic aspect of public works and buildings, be consulted before further steps are taken." He said he had put the motion down because he wished to call the attention of the Government to the existence of the Fine Arts Committee. It was inconceivable that in the greatest public work ever undertaken in the City or County of London by any local authority or by the Crown the Government should not have sought the advice and counsel of the Committee, since the work affected the amenities and the attractions of the capital of the Empire. It might be said that this matter was a question of local government but the Thames was pre-eminently a national river, and the greater bridges that were provided for crossing it in the capital were matters of national concern. Therefore, he did not think anybody would consider the construction of this bridge to be merely a local question. The Government could not possibly divest itself of responsibility in the matter, since it was proposed to spend a million of money out of the Imperial Exchequer on the necessary approaches and thoroughfares. The Government could not say

ON THIS DAY

May 23, 1924

The proposal to develop the defunct power station at Bankside into an art gallery has led to the suggestion of a bridge between there and the purlieu of St Paul's.

they had no responsibility for a project which seriously threatened, if it did not endanger, St Paul's Cathedral. The Cathedral authorities regarded it not only with anxiety, but with apprehension. It was not going to suggest or insinuate that the accommodation across the Thames at the present moment was sufficient or suitable. All he wished to say was that so far as he could see the St Paul's Bridge was the worst of all the proposals made for bridging the Thames. (Cheers.) It had very few friends. He believed only a bare majority supported it in the City Corporation. Generally speaking, there was a great body of opinion in the City of London opposed to the making of the

PERSONAL COLUMN

FINANCIAL NOTICES

Case No. 100308 of 1995 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF SELECT FACILITIES LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a Petition was presented to the High Court of Justice on the 20th day of June 1995 for an order of winding up of the above named company on the grounds that it is unable to pay its debts as they fall due. The Petition is supported by a statement of affairs of the company dated 1st June 1995. A copy of the Petition and statement of affairs is available for inspection at the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, 1st Floor, 100, Strand, London WC2R 2BS. Any creditor or contributory of the company who wishes to oppose the winding up of the company should file a notice of opposition with the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, 1st Floor, 100, Strand, London WC2R 2BS, not later than 10.00 a.m. on the 20th day of July 1995. A copy of the Petition will be sent to all creditors of the company who have notified the company of their claims. A copy of the statement of affairs will be sent to all creditors of the company who have notified the company of their claims. Dated this 20th day of June 1995. J. H. G. JONES, Solicitor for the Petitioner, 100, Strand, London WC2R 2BS. Tel: 01-583 8444.

SHORT LETS

CENTRAL London. 2-3 bed serviced apartments. 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007. 2-3 bed serviced apartments. 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007.

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TICKETS FOR SALE When responding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the facts before entering into any commitment. Most sports tickets are subject to strict re-sale and transfer rules.

TICKETS

WIMBLEDON CELEBRITIES ROYAL ACROBAT CHERRIE FLOWER below RUGBY WORLD CUP '95 ENG V WEST INDIES RON JOY ROBERT BYRON STEVE WINDER SUNSET BLVD PHAROS, SUTTON, OLIVER. ALL POP, SPORTS & THEATRE. TEL: 071 323 4480 Great Portland Ave.

ALL AVAILABLE: Wimbledon World Champions, Oliver, Sutton, Oliver, Tel: 071 323 4480. ALL TICKETS: Wimbledon, Acro, World Cup Rugby, RWC, Eng v West Indies, Ron Joy, Robert Byron, Steve Winder, Sunset Blvd, Pharos, Sutton, Oliver. All Pop, Sports & Theatre. Tel: 071 323 4480. ROYAL ACROBAT Cherrie Flower below RUGBY WORLD CUP '95 ENG V WEST INDIES RON JOY ROBERT BYRON STEVE WINDER SUNSET BLVD PHAROS, SUTTON, OLIVER. ALL POP, SPORTS & THEATRE. TEL: 071 323 4480 Great Portland Ave.

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RUGBY WORLD CUP SOUTH AFRICA '95 Hotels - Flights - Match Tickets guaranteed MIKE BURTON SPORTS Tel: 01452 419666 Fax: 01452 527000 Fully bonded. AFTA No. 22026. ATOL No. 3030

TUITION & COURSES

RUSSIAN Tuition for expats, second school leavers. 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007. RUSSIAN Tuition for expats, second school leavers. 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007.

WANTED

ALL CROCODILES Articles, Hides and Skulls for sale. Tel: 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007. ALL CROCODILES Articles, Hides and Skulls for sale. Tel: 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007.

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DAVID from Berkshire. Years in the City. Tel: 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007. DAVID from Berkshire. Years in the City. Tel: 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007.

YOUR WILL

If you are making your will please call 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007. If you are making your will please call 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007.

Give hope not flowers

Help others survive cancer by supporting our vital research. Please send donations, made payable to, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Dept 7, REPOST, London WC2A 3BX. Reg. Charity No. 209631.

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Kidney Research Saves Lives Please help with a donation now and a legacy later. NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH FUND Tel: 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007. Kidney Research Saves Lives Please help with a donation now and a legacy later. NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH FUND Tel: 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007.

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EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY We welcome those who once served our country. Tel: 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007. EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY We welcome those who once served our country. Tel: 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMBAT STRESS Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society Tel: 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007. COMBAT STRESS Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society Tel: 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP CARE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH CANCER People living with cancer need someone to care for them. A legacy to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund can help train more Macmillan Nurses. Tel: 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007. HELP CARE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH CANCER People living with cancer need someone to care for them. A legacy to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund can help train more Macmillan Nurses. Tel: 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Gift to the NCDF in your Will is a Gift of Life to a Dog The National Canine Defence League (NCDF) rescues about 9,000 dogs each and every year. No dog is destroyed, unless for humane reasons. We are always looking for caring and responsible new owners to give them a second chance. Tel: 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007. A Gift to the NCDF in your Will is a Gift of Life to a Dog The National Canine Defence League (NCDF) rescues about 9,000 dogs each and every year. No dog is destroyed, unless for humane reasons. We are always looking for caring and responsible new owners to give them a second chance. Tel: 01-459 3006 / 01-459 3007.

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The Emir of Kuwait arrives in Britain today on a state visit. In a three-page special report, David Rudnick looks at the aftermath of the Iraqi occupation

War still casts a long shadow

PATRICK DURAND / SYGMA

Four years after its liberation from Iraqi occupation, Kuwait is in many ways its old self again: sleek, poised and apparently as prosperous as ever. The scars that disfigured its battered buildings have entirely disappeared and, outwardly at least, everything is back to normal.

Some things have changed, however. The National Assembly, dissolved by the Emir in 1986 for being too outspoken in its opposition, was re-elected in 1992 and has once again become a forum for critics of the Government; and faced with the huge cost of liberating the country, Kuwait is discovering that it does not have unlimited funds.

Moreover, Saddam Hussein is still in power in Baghdad and still a threat, and the invisible scars of occupation remain in people's minds. "They will always be there, even if Kuwait's physical infrastructure has been repaired," says Professor Rasha al-Sabah, Under-Secretary at the Higher Education Ministry.

For the families of the hundreds of Kuwaitis seized during the occupation and since held prisoner in Iraq, the travail is in fact far from over. Some Kuwaiti detainees have simply disappeared. Amnesty International has taken up their case.

Until all Kuwaiti prisoners of war and missing persons are returned, and Iraq pays for damage done, in compliance with UN resolutions, Kuwait wants sanctions maintained. It is heartened by the support of its allies, particularly the unequivocal stance of the United States and Britain.

Iraq's recent, belated recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and the border established by the UN is, of course, welcome, but Saddam Hussein's continuing belligerence is not. "His media still speak of revenge, bloodshed and revolution," says Sulaiman Majed al-Shaheen, an Under-Secretary in the Foreign Ministry.

Last October, Saddam's forces massed on Kuwait's border, as they had in August 1990, but this time the international response was immediate and decisive. So, too, was Kuwait's. "The Government handled the crisis impressively, maintaining confidence and enhancing its credibility," says Ahmed al-Kuraishi, political editor of the daily *Arab Times*.

In the long-term, however, Ku-



The legacy of Saddam — tanks captured by the allies in the Gulf War. Iraq recently accepted Kuwait's sovereignty and its border, but the belligerence continues from Baghdad

wait's own freedom of action has been seriously constrained. Previously, Kuwait had played a centre-stage role in regional and international affairs. As a leader of the non-aligned movement, it disbursed aid lavishly to win friends and influence. It pioneered normal diplomatic relations with Moscow well ahead of its Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) partners, and championed the Palestinian cause.

Now those expansive days are gone. The ever-present danger from Iraq imposes strict imperatives on Kuwait's foreign policy: rigid adherence to America and fealty to Saudi Arabia as the base for any future rescue operations.

Gone are any illusions about

pan-Arab solidarity. "Before the invasion, we lived with rosy dreams that Arabs would not wage war on Arabs," says Mr al-Shaheen. "But now we are disabused."

After America, Kuwait sees Britain, France and Russia, the three other permanent members of the UN Security Council with which it has defence pacts, as its most reliable allies. Behind them come its five GCC partners (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates) which, with Egypt and Syria, stood by Kuwait.

Jordan did not. The Hashemite kingdom's role is bitterly condemned by Kuwaiti officials as pusillanimous at best, treacherous

at worst. They express understanding for the delicate balancing act King Hussein has to perform between the Palestinians on the one hand and his Western and conservative Arab associates on the other. But they would have expected that he would show more courage and moral principle.

Nor has the emotional welcome which Saddam's troops received from Kuwait's Palestinian community been forgotten or forgiven. Officially, the Kuwaiti Government blames the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), rather than the Palestinians en masse. Unofficially, widespread popular resentment makes a return to Kuwait of the Palestinian diaspo-

ra, formerly half-a-million strong, highly unlikely. Barely 50,000 remain.

Kuwait is nevertheless supporting the peace process with a modest \$25 million donation for the new Palestinian enclaves in Gaza and Jericho. The money is being channelled through the UN and the World Bank rather than the PLO.

Mr al-Shaheen acknowledges that Kuwait's dependence on America for its security places it in a position analogous to that of Israel. "We have no common border with the Israelis and nothing against them," he says. Kuwait is progressively abandoning its economic boycott of Israel, but it cannot go faster than the Arab consensus.

The long-term priority is to normalise relations with Iraq, even if there is no sign of its happening under the present Baghdad regime. "For a security system to work externally, it must rest on firm internal democratic foundations," says Mr al-Shaheen. "but Iraq cannot be trusted."

Kuwaiti Government spokesmen are nevertheless at pains to sound conciliatory towards Iraq. Nobody admits to favouring partition of the country. Nor are Kuwaiti officials prepared to admit disappointment that the allies failed to dislodge Saddam in 1991. In the Foreign Ministry view, Saddam will have his work cut out maintaining internal stability and keeping Iraq

together, let alone starting another foreign adventure.

Kuwaitis are fond of pointing out that Iraq is intrinsically a fragile construction, put together as late as 1921, while their own tight little state goes back to 1751, when the al-Sabah family was originally elected to lead by tribal consensus.

This comfortable view is not necessarily supported by last October's probing exercise, which cost Kuwait dear. On some estimates, Kuwait's contribution to the allied response was \$500 million. Figures from the International Institute for Strategic Studies show that since 1991 Kuwait has been the world's biggest per capita spender on arms.

Budget constraints are forcing some retrenchment, but in salaries and support rather than weapons procurement. The Foreign Ministry is confident, however, that Kuwait's security ultimately rests on its Western allies' awareness of the Gulf region as an economic and strategic priority.

Meanwhile, the country is a showcase of parliamentary democracy in the Gulf, evidenced by the outspoken criticism of Government policies in the press and parliament. Officially, there are no political parties, but in practice, according to Mr al-Kuraishi, "Parliament is divided into Islamists, independents, Shiites and Beduin."

The 1992 election brought in an opposition-minded majority, but observers expect next year's poll to bring in a more pro-Government assembly as the debacle of 1990 recedes into memory. Currently, five out of 16 members of Kuwait's Government are elected MPs; the rest are appointed by the Crown Prince/Prime Minister and then become ex-officio MPs. There are growing demands for a bigger parliamentary share, and that may have to be met before long.

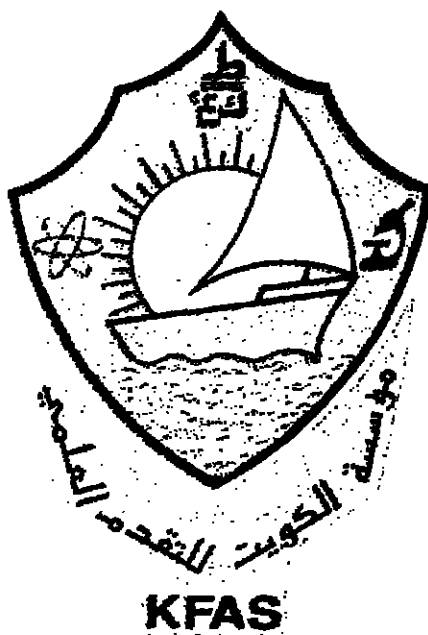
The Kuwaiti Parliament is sometimes attacked as a mere stage for rival histrionics by impractical Islamic and secularist ideologues. But it is more than just a talking shop. Two years ago watchdog committees were set up to scrutinise government accounts and supervise the activities of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA). And last month a parliamentary inquiry claimed to have unearthed sleaze in the Defence Ministry.

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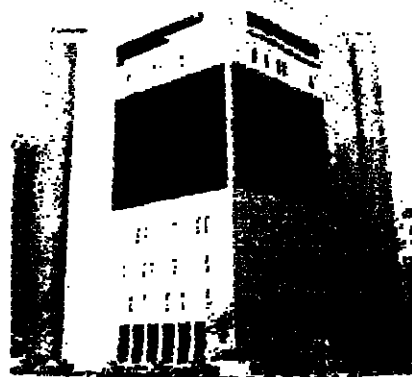
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General Aims:

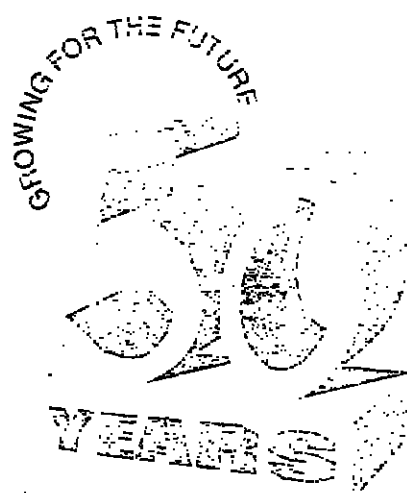
- Support efforts for modernization and scientific development
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MAJALLAT AL-OLOOM:

Majallat Al-Oloom is the only Arabic language edition of the internationally recognized and widely distributed scientific magazine *Scientific American*. This monthly magazine is sponsored by KFAS and supervised by an Editorial Board headed by KFAS' Director General. It aims at satisfying the scientific aspirations necessary for the sustained cultural development of Kuwait and the Arab World.



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A dose of economic realism

Tough decisions are needed to repair public finances in a country used to high welfare spending

Kuwait's oil reserves, and its overseas investments over the years, have ensured that it remains one of the world's wealthiest countries, offering its citizens the benefits of a lavish welfare state. But the costs of expelling the Iraqis and of rebuilding the country have torn a large hole in Kuwait's public finances, and it faces a serious budget deficit. Lower oil prices and a sharp fall in the value of the petrodollar have not helped.

The Government's long-term aim is to balance its budget, which now has a deficit of 1.5 billion Kuwaiti dinars (£3.1 billion), by 2000, but opinions differ on the realism of this timetable. Ali Rashid al-Bader, managing director of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), believes it is attainable "if the Government raises its ridiculously low charges on public utilities" — a step supported by parliament's finance committee.

The Government's 1995-96 draft budget, approved at the end of last month by the Cabinet, projects revenues rising by 14 per cent, based mainly on oil prices firming at the same rate. Projected oil revenue assumes an average crude price of \$13 a barrel, rather than \$12 as in the current budget.

"Four dollars on the price of a barrel of Brent crude (the benchmark) would remove all the need for belt-tightening," Mr al-Bader says wistfully. But as things stand, the draft budget envisages a swinging cut of almost 35 per cent in the deficit.

Commercial banking circles, as usual, take a some-

what sceptical view. In its latest quarterly review, the National Bank of Kuwait accepts that the budget is "a step in the right direction". But it adds: "More serious efforts need to be made to reduce the major spending categories." Ideally, state spending cuts should focus first on bloated public-sector salaries.

Dr Ismail al-Shatti, chairman of Parliament's finance committee, lashes the unproductive performance of government employees. He reckons that they work for less than two hours a day, that the Government employs three times as many people (150,000) as it needs, and that if nothing is done they will ruin the exchequer.

The drain of public-sector salaries comfortably exceeds the sums which Nasser Abdullah al-Rodhan, the Finance Minister, says the Government spends subsidising water (KD64 million), electricity (KD200 million), and free medical services (KD276 million).

Defence spending, kept off-budget in the past, is set for a 7.7 per cent cut, though it will still form 20 per cent of all projected public spending, and officials insist that economies will not affect basic security needs. Spending on development projects is to be trimmed by 5 per cent.

On the revenue side, direct taxation remains politically taboo. The local culture would make disclosure of investment income almost unenforceable, while taxing only wages and salaries would be condemned as inequitable. But indirect



An open-air market in Kuwait: the people are accustomed to having huge spending power

taxes and higher customs duties could be in the pipeline, and so could corporation tax. Kuwaiti-owned companies are still completely tax-exempt, unlike foreign-owned concerns, which are liable to a punitive top rate of 55 per cent on profits.

To help to balance the books, the Government is planning a programme of privatisation, following a strategy suggested by the World Bank. It has accepted all the bank's recommendations, but excluded the commanding heights of the oil sector.

Leaving that aside, the value of state shareholdings to be privatised comes to about KD3.6 billion (£7.4 billion), including KD2.2 billion in water and electric power facilities, KD420 million in Kuwait

Airways, and KD800 million representing KIA holdings in some 60 companies.

The sell-off of KIA companies started last September with the successful disposal of shares in the Commercial Facilities Company. Since then the KIA has sold a further five companies, including the auction in December of most of its shares in Al-Ahli Bank. Mr al-Bader says the KIA has to date disposed of about KD120 million of the KD800 million of its assets scheduled for privatisation.

Telecommunications privatisation is also under way. The World Bank favours the transfer of public assets to a new Kuwait Telecommunications Company, and the sale of a controlling block of its shares to a foreign telephone com-

pany. The Kuwaitis, however, might prefer to keep financial control with their own citizens, with a maximum 25 per cent share for foreign companies.

The privatisation of water and electricity will present a political problem if, as expected, charges have to rise to commercial levels and replace the present heavily subsidised rates. One senior commercial bank economist sees a decision being indefinitely delayed. "It's not politically feasible," he says. "The leap in prices is too great, and so is the likely unemployment, unless the private sector can absorb the shake-out." But public-sector employees, he adds ominously, are not known for their productivity.

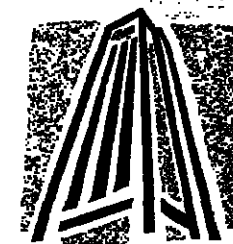
Privatising part of the health service should prove an easier nut to crack. The Government is considering the introduction of fees for some minor medical services, and it intends privatising some hospitals and turning them over to foreign management.



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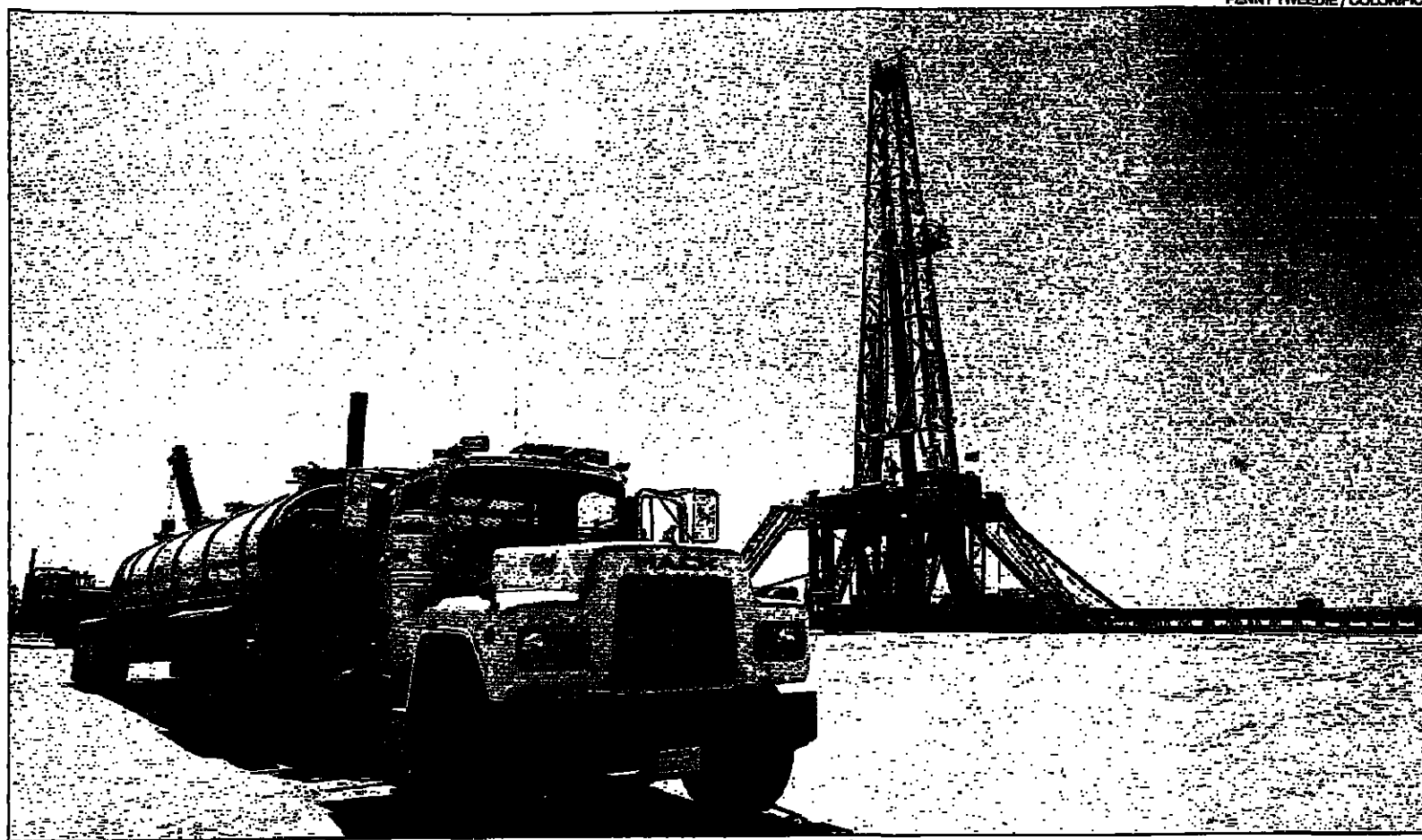
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Black gold: oil production from Kuwait's vast reserves quickly returned to normal after the war, but the country is not satisfied with its quota allocation

Rolling out the barrels

The Kuwaiti Government is seeking to answer economic problems by increasing the output of oil

Oil dominates Kuwait's economy. Oil income provides the Government with 90 per cent of its revenue (the balance coming from overseas investment), and contributes more than 50 per cent to the gross domestic product (GDP). Kuwait's proven recoverable oil reserves are put at around 95 billion barrels, 10 per cent of the world total.

Iraq tried to cripple Kuwait by blowing up more than 700 well-heads, causing the loss of about six million barrels of oil a day (bpd). Fortunately, with Western help, the fires were speedily put out, and Kuwait began exporting oil again within nine months of liberation. But the loss from oil ignited and split was \$50-\$60 billion, and the fire-fighting cost a further \$2 billion.

Production is now back at its pre-invasion level of two million bpd, but Kuwait is dissatisfied with that as its quota allocation under the rules of the Organisation of Petroleum

Exporting Countries (Opec), and it will press strongly for an increase to 2.12 million bpd at the organisation's review meeting in November.

Kuwait is aiming to develop a minimum 2.5 million bpd capacity over the next few years, rising to three million bpd by early in the next century.

Yet on most projections the oil price will remain static in real terms. "That is precisely why we have to raise our oil revenue through increased output volumes," says Nader Sultan, deputy chairman of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), the holding company for Kuwait's oil interests. He adds that Kuwait will also have to clean up its act if it is to ensure a reasonable share of the market growth, which will be for environmentally clean transport fuels rather than the

country's indigenous sour crude.

That means sizeable investment in refinery capacity. Mr Sultan envisages increasing it by roughly 25 per cent, to just below one million bpd, in addition to developing about 400,000 bpd of new capacity in refining joint ventures outside Kuwait, mainly in Asia.

Cutting operating costs through improved efficiency is another priority. So KPC is collaborating with the oil majors to identify opportunities for savings. "We are seeing the fruits of this cooperation from our technical service agreements with BP and Chevron," Mr Sultan says. These two companies owned Kuwait's oil industry before its nationalisation 20 years ago, and would welcome a direct

stake in future production and exploration. Any foreign control of Kuwait's national treasure is a sensitive political issue, but the cost savings offered in raising capacity by about 50 per cent might well be more persuasive than residual nationalist scruples.

It might also be argued that national security would be enhanced if Western oil interests were involved in opening up fields near the Iraqi border.

Meanwhile the situation is already developing downstream. The Petroleum Industries Company, a KPC subsidiary, has embarked on a new petrochemical project for an ethylene cracker to be built jointly with Union Carbide.

Mr Sultan sees privatisation as another possible catalyst for enhancing efficiency. A recommendation by the World Bank that 25 per cent of KPC should

be privatised has, however, been rejected by the Kuwaiti authorities. Instead, they favour privatising some KPC subsidiaries: the Oil Tanker Company, the Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company and the Aviation Fuelling Company. KPC has already put up for sale the oil and gas exploration operations of Santa Fe International Corporation, its Texas-based subsidiary.

But the privatisation of petrol stations has probably excited most public interest. According to one industry analyst, some petrol stations have such a low sales volume that they would not be business propositions, while others have a daily turnover as high as 600,000 litres and customers queuing for half an hour.

Another issue is the low price of petrol. To attract private investors, prices would have to be increased sharply, and that is an inflammable prospect which the Government may prefer to duck.

Tradition holds the cultural balance

In an increasingly liberal society, the people of Kuwait have not forgotten their Islamic roots

Kuwait is a notably more liberal society than some others in the Gulf, and the war and liberation have prised the lid open even further. Kuwait's rulers take a pragmatic approach to the conflicting pressures of tradition and modernity. Balance is the watchword.

Out of respect for Islam, alcohol is forbidden, the constitution recognises a role for Sharia (Islamic law), and women cannot vote or stand for parliament.

But that is only half the picture. Islamists may have 60 per cent of the seats in parliament, but they are losing the battle to impose Islamic norms. Last year a Cabinet reshuffle reduced their strength in the Government, and they failed in a move to make Sharia the sole source of law. Their Bill to outlaw co-education and impose segregation at Kuwait University was opposed by the university board and defeated.

Legislation enforces equal opportunities for all Kuwaiti citizens regardless of sex, and Professor Rasha al-Sabah, Under-Secretary at the Higher Education Ministry, estimates that two-thirds of the student body are female. "Women are found as doctors, lawyers, civil servants and engineers," she says. "The first woman has just been appointed editor-in-chief of the influential daily, *Al-Anba*."

Not only is Professor al-Sabah herself Kuwait's first woman Under-Secretary, but since 1993 a woman has been appointed Rector of Kuwait University, and women have been sent as

ambassadors to Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Professor al-Sabah readily concedes that women's liberation is still incomplete, however. She agrees that there may be some truth in the belief that even liberals secretly oppose the female franchise on the grounds that women would docilely vote the way their conservative husbands told them.

But there are other voices. "Women are too immature to vote. Scholars will pronounce eventually on their fitness to sit in parliament," says Dr Ayub al-Ayub, deputy chairman of the Supreme

constitutional committee, who is threatened by Islamic fundamentalists "since they are opposed to Kuwait's Western allies and protectors".

Mr al-Kuraishi finds, though, that in practice the Government is distancing itself at every turn from the Islamists by, for example, giving the Education Ministry to Dr Ahmed al-Rubia, the liberal secularist, "who has taken out the political content of Islamic studies and removed from school textbooks anything which might be derogatory to Jews or Zionism".

Like any rapidly changing society, however, Kuwait clings to ancient customs as lodestars in an uncertain world. Devout women drivers cannot understand, for instance, why they should not wear their veil at the wheel. Modest women medical students insisted on going veiled into their practical examinations until someone thought of a medical face-mask as a compromise.

Even a modernist like Professor al-Sabah, who runs her own *dhanniyah*, or discussion salon, wonders whether "we shouldn't be more selective in what we take from the West. We don't need drugs and free sex. We should keep reverence for the family. Grandparents shouldn't be banished into old-age homes since they provide the pole holding up the tent."

Rising crime and divorce rates and fear of an emerging drug culture lead many people to worry about the direction Kuwait could be taking. They lend credibility to Islamic calls for a return to righteousness.



Women are making their voices heard

Consultative Committee for the Implementation of Sharia.

A relaxed, urbane graduate of Hull University, Dr Ayub epitomises the duality of Kuwaiti society. He rebuts any suggestion that Kuwait might emulate Saudi Arabia's strict Islamic code. At the same time he denies that the committee was set up by the al-Sabah family as a sop to militant Islamic pressure.

Yet there is tension between the advance of Western hedonism and the cultural reaction that finds a focus in Islam. Ahmed al-Kuraishi, political editor of the *Arab Times*, the militant secular daily, believes the

BRITAIN AND KUWAIT

CENTURIES OF FRIENDSHIP

Britain and Kuwait have enjoyed an enduring and friendly association for more than 200 years.

The relationship first began to flourish when the British Factory, a semi-official British trading company, temporarily transferred to Kuwait from Basra in 1793. The move was made in order to avoid problems with officials of the Ottoman Empire in Basra.

Kuwait was already a thriving trading port. During the second half of the eighteenth century trading ships from Europe, India and Arabia diverted to Kuwait to avoid attacks by pirates on the Shatt Al-Arab in Iraq.

A British traveller to the Gulf recorded in 1816 that Kuwait: "seems always to have preserved its independence and the people... have the highest character for probity, skill, firmness and courage."

In 1821 the English East India Company moved its trading post to Kuwait, which was independent of the Ottoman Empire, in order to escape the growing list of bureaucratic controls and customs duties in Basra which were severely hindering trade.

The first official agreement between Britain and Kuwait was signed in 1841. Under this Anglo-Kuwaiti Maritime Truce the two countries co-operated to counter the menace of piracy in the region so that long-distance trade could flourish.

That year the British Resident in the Arabian Gulf reported: "This town (Kuwait) presents a singular instance of commercial prosperity although wanting in almost every advantage excepting its magnificent harbour... The government of Shaikh Jabir is of a truly mild and paternal character. The revenue realised by him is expended in keeping up a sort of public table of food of a plentiful description to which everyone appears to be welcome. This liberality together with the utter absence of all pretension of outward superiority, renders Shaikh Jabir and his son Soobah most popular among his subjects."

Kuwait's greatest threat came from the neighbouring Ottoman Empire which made several attempts at gaining control of the country. The British Political Agent in Basra reported: "Rather than submit to a Turkish Government at Kuwait" the Kuwaiti people would resist to the last.

Britain fully committed itself to the defence of Kuwait in an agreement signed on 23 January 1899, during the reign of Shaikh Mubarak. This agreement sealed the friendship between the two countries, and since that day, for nearly 100 years, Britain has committed itself to the defence of Kuwait.

Under the 1899 Treaty Britain became responsible for Kuwait's international independence and protection but would not interfere in its internal affairs. At the time there was concern about a plan by Germany and the Ottoman Empire for a railway link from Berlin to the Gulf in which they saw Kuwait as the ideal terminus on the Gulf.

In February 1901 the Ottoman sixth army corps under Muhammad Pasha Daghestani moved to Kuwait's northern borders. Later that year the Turkish warship Zuhaff twice sailed into Kuwait's port with troops but they were prevented from disembarking by the British. In December 1901 and January 1902 extra British gunboats were sent to Kuwait and the town of Jahra, north of Kuwait, was reinforced with heavy British armaments including Nordenfeldts and Maxims to prevent invasion and to help maintain Kuwaiti independence.

The relationship developed further in 1903 when improved postal communications between Kuwait and Britain were established. In August 1904 the British government appointed its own official representative to the state, Captain S. G. Knox. Britain also became involved in making detailed surveys of Kuwaiti territory on both land and sea during the period 1904-1907.

A young Dane visiting Kuwait in 1912 recorded: "Shaikh Mubarak permitted only British steamers to call at Kuwait, and had turned down the request of a German shipping firm to open an agency there."

During the First World War the Ottoman Empire sided with the Germans. In an official letter to Shaikh Mubarak dated November 3 1914 Britain confirmed that Kuwait was "an independent Shaikhdom" under British Protection.

In the early 1930s the British Anglo-Persian Oil Company sent a representative to Kuwait to negotiate a concession to explore for oil. At the time Kuwait's economy which had centred around trade and pearl fishing, had been badly hit by the international economic depression. The Kuwait Oil Company was formed in 1934, registered as a joint enterprise with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company - now British Petroleum. Following this agreement the Amir, Shaikh Ahmad, visited London in 1935 bringing with him a generous gift for Queen Mary - a perfectly round and flawless pearl, the largest ever found in the Gulf.

Oil was finally discovered on February 22, 1938 when a gusher was found sending an uncontrollable cascade of oil soaring into the desert air.

Drilling for oil was suspended during the Second World War.

After the war the development of Kuwait's oil industry began in earnest, changing the country into a sophisticated modern state.

The 1899 Treaty was repealed when Kuwait obtained its independence in 1961 which gave Kuwait back responsibility for its international affairs, but maintained a relationship of military co-operation and assistance.

Immediately following the signing of this Treaty, the then Iraqi dictator General Qassem, claimed that Kuwait was part of Iraq. Britain sprang to Kuwait's defence deploying troops to the State which were later replaced by Arab League troops. Incursion by Iraq was prevented.

In 1979 the Queen and Prince Philip made a State Visit to Kuwait as the guests of the present Amir.

In August 1990, under the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Britain, once more demonstrated the strength of its historical alliance with Kuwait. British troops played a pivotal role in the successful liberation of Kuwait by coalition forces.

The last five years have seen the strengthening of traditional ties between Britain and Kuwait.

Defence pacts between Britain and Kuwait have been signed and Britain has consistently supported Kuwait in the UN by voting for the continuation of UN sanctions against Iraq until Iraq complies with all UN resolutions including the release of 625 civilian detainees and prisoners of war taken during the occupation of Kuwait and still held prisoner in Iraq.

In 1993 Prince Charles visited Kuwait and the Amir bestowed on him the Mubarak The Great Medal, the country's highest honour, in recognition of Britain's contribution during the Gulf War to liberate Kuwait.

When Saddam Hussein again threatened Kuwait in October 1994 by massing troops near the border, Britain again responded instantly, as part of a combined coalition force.

Britain and Kuwait continue to be important trading partners. In 1993 Kuwait sold £236 million worth of exports to Britain and in return Britain exported over £311 million worth of goods to Kuwait.

The State Visit of His Highness Shaikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, from 23 to 26 May is the latest evidence of the enduring warmth of the relationship between Britain and Kuwait.

NEWS

Apology gets Wiggin off the hook

MPs were warned by the Speaker to clean up their reputation amid signs that John Major was bowing to Labour demands to implement the Nolan recommendations.

The dressing down from Betty Boothroyd was delivered after Sir Jerry Wiggin escaped an investigation and almost certain heavy punishment by the Privileges Committee after giving a full apology to the House for his behaviour. He had used another Tory MP's name to table an amendment to a Bill in which he had a financial interest. Pages 1, 2, 10

Mother who lied freed from jail

A mother of three, who was jailed for two months for lying to police about a car accident to protect her husband, had an emotional reunion with her children after her sentence was quashed by the court of appeal. Page 1

Calculated risk

An inquiry into the use of calculators in schools was ordered by education advisers. The move follows concern that pupils are neglecting basic arithmetic. Page 1

Blair tax promise

Tony Blair gave his clearest signal that he would not allow tax rates under a Labour government to rise higher than the international average. Pages 2, 10

NHS fight

Almost a million NHS workers are poised to take industrial action after Unison, representing nurses, ambulance crews, and clerical and ancillary workers, rejected a pay offer. Page 2

Cave woman mystery

Six weeks after an English-speaking woman was found starving in a cave on the coast of Cyprus, her identity remains a mystery to the island's authorities who suspect she is on the run. Page 3

Chelsea under fire

The Chelsea Flower Show was accused of commercialisation by David Bellamy, the naturalist, who said the event was inferior to other shows. Page 3

War crimes trial

Britain's first war crimes trial could be held early next year. Detectives are taking statements as Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, studies files on a former Polish citizen. Page 5

A Mallory conquers Everest

George Mallory has reached the summit of Everest, 71 years after his grandfather, George Leigh Mallory, disappeared leaving unanswered the question: were he and Andrew Irvine the first men to conquer the highest point on earth? Young Mallory, aged 35, from Melbourne, Australia, carried the family name to the summit on May 14. Page 1



Dummy run: Catering students on the Isle of Wight rehearsing for the summer season by serving mannequins at Arretton Manor

Building societies: Ten million members of the Halifax and Leeds Permanent building societies stand to receive free shares worth on average £500 after savers and borrowers voted overwhelmingly in favour of a merger. Page 25

Competition White Paper: The Government set a target of a 30 per cent increase by the end of the decade in the number of UK exporters. Pages 25, 26

Housing: Market observers argue that gloomy predictions that house prices will fall for the next 20 years could become a reality. Page 29

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 23.5 to 3,284.5. Sterling's index climbed from 84.9 to 85.0 after a dip from \$1.5735 to \$1.5677 and a rise from DM2.2674 to DM2.2696. Page 28

Rugby union: Dewi Morris, who retires after the World Cup, has been selected by England as scrum half for their opening match against Argentina ahead of Kyrán Bracken. Page 48

Crickets: Warwickshire, the champions, moved into second place in the Britannic Assurance County Championship with a 111-run victory over Durham. Page 45

Motor racing: There are doubts whether Nigel Mansell will drive this weekend in the Monaco Grand Prix, the showpiece of the Formula One season. Page 48

Tennis: Greg Rusedski, who has an English mother, has been cleared to play for Britain in the Davis Cup by the International Tennis Federation. Page 48

Impressive show: If the Impressionists brought about a revolution, it was a subtle one. That is demonstrated by a superb new show, *Landscapes of France*, at the Hayward Gallery. Page 33

Nations at dance: In San Francisco, a huge dance festival to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations features the finest in contemporary dance from around the world. Page 35

Tennessee revived: A late and disturbingly weird Tennessee Williams play, *View from the Bridge*, has been revived in Nottingham. Page 33

Musical up Mozart: A new Welsh National Opera production of *Così fan tutte* plays fast and loose with both Mozart's style and period. Page 34

Headline news: American news-casting has rather less to do with effective journalism than approval ratings and acting ability. Ben Macintyre reports. Page 14

Eating disorder: The complications of obesity cost the taxpayer £165 million a year. Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on what can be done to help those affected. Page 15

Legal action: In National Law Week, Frances Gibb explains how the profession is out to improve its public image. Page 40

Kuwait: As the Emir arrives in Britain today on a state visit, David Rudnick looks at how the country is dealing with the aftermath of the Iraqi occupation. Page 20, 21, 22

For the first time in the nation's history that short stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House has been made off-limits to traffic. It is a concession to terrorism; a sad commentary on our times — *The Washington Post* in Hong Kong last week, the latest batch of "boat people" selected for forced repatriation were loaded onto a plane for Vietnam. This is a travesty of international law and basic justice — *Wall Street Journal*

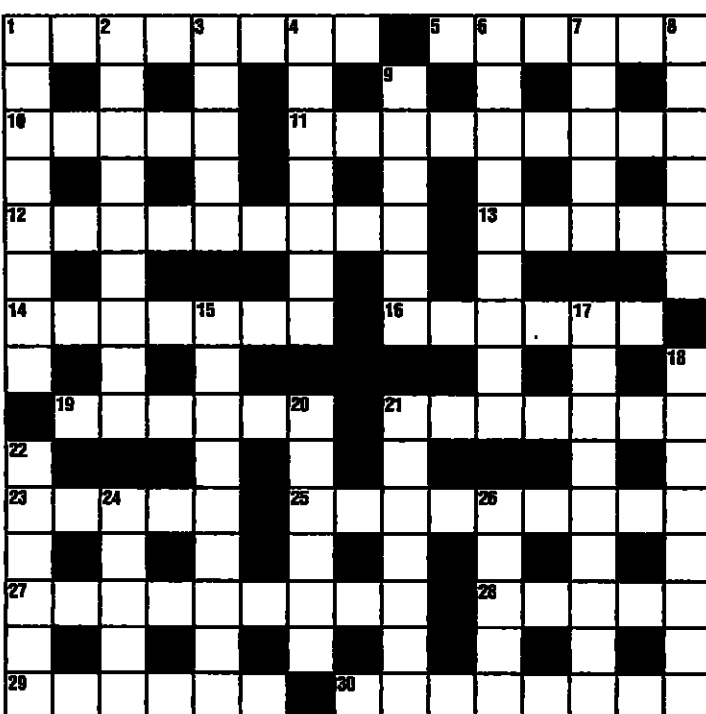
IN THE TIMES

TOP HATS
Iain R. Webb on adding flair and finesse to the trouser suit

IN FLOWER
Why a listed garden could sell a house faster than you could say Gertrude Jekyll



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,862



- ACROSS**
- Snooper's yen to infiltrate transport group (8)
 - Fishy company with writers on the board? (6)
 - Provincial governor preceded by a bishop in church (5)
 - Cricketer in new Cairo club, initially showing great agility (9)
 - Bury the seed, say, and step in (9)
 - Vessel reversed in both Cayman and Caicos Islands (5)
 - A bug not going the rounds in this vessel (7)
 - Body of soldiers, say, or travelling players (6)
 - State administrator, for example, dividing payment (6)
 - Novel articles put in a case (7)
 - Greek character taken in like a sucker (5)
 - Face employment that is mechanical (9)
- DOWN**
- Relative position of animal in Gilbert and Sullivan (8)
 - The reality of wealth and possessions (9)
 - Neat accommodation, say, for the consumer (5)
 - Girl and boy originally talking patois (7)
 - Snug place made by young creature beside dump (5-4)
 - Page written in, concerning the ear and the eye (5)
 - New officer entry is in place (6)
 - Keen to make a right impression (6)
 - An error in surveillance (9)
 - Support from Head about organ rebuild (9)
 - Crew member takes platform, gaining a round of applause (4-4)
 - Unknown firm absorbed by heavyweight captain of industry (6)
 - Sign "causing confusion to poor" (sic) (7)
 - Cat almost submerged under river in university grounds (6)
 - Firm holding oxygen in reserve (5)
 - Light anchor giving many the advantage (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,861

EVINCED SHOWOFF
S L I W P M A
PARMA ABSEMENT
A N I T I G N
EVERGREEN ADIAGE
S I T I S
S I N G EXAMINERS
T A R R O N
MOTTO SIGHTSEER
P I T N A A R N
REVESTRAIN BRACE
A U E R G T S
A P E R S E E L E M E N T

Times Two Crossword, page 48

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
North/Surrey/Sussex	702
Devon/Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilt, Glouc, Avon, Som.	705
Berk, Bucks, Oxon	706
Bedfordshire & Essex	707
North/Suffolk, Cambs.	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefords & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Derby & Powys	714
W. Yorks & Chyvd.	715
N.W. England	716
W. S. Yorks & Dales	717
N.E. England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S.W. Scotland	720
W. Scotland	721
Edin & Fife/Highlands & Borders	722
E. Central Scotland	723
Grampians & E. Highlands	724
N.W. Scotland	725
Orkney, Shetland & Na H-Eil.	726
N. Ireland	727

Weather forecasts are charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0338 401 followed by the appropriate code:

Area	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Chon	732
North/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	733
M25 London Orbital only	734
National traffic and roadworks	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Angles	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest and lowest temperatures (°C) and rainfall (mm) for the 24 hours ending at midnight.

Area	Highest	Lowest	Rainfall
London & SE	15.1	10.1	0.1
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Chon	14.5	9.5	0.1
North/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	14.0	9.0	0.1
M25 London Orbital only	14.0	9.0	0.1
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North-east England	14.0	9.0	0.1
Scotland	14.0	9.0	0.1
Northern Ireland	14.0	9.0	0.1

ABROAD

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available.

Area	Highest	Lowest	Rainfall
London & SE	15.1	10.1	0.1
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Chon	14.5	9.5	0.1
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Northern Ireland	14.0	9.0	0.1

General: England and Wales will start bright with some sunshine. However, cloud will increase during the day, especially in the north and west, with the best of the sunshine in the southeast. It will be largely dry, apart from isolated showers in the north and west. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain for much of the day. Drier weather should edge in from the west later. Eastern Scotland will start bright but become increasingly cloudy with the chance of light rain or drizzle later.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N: dry and bright with hazy sunshine. Wind southeast mainly light. Very warm. Max 23C (73F).

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE

England: bright start but becoming more cloudy. Mainly dry. Wind south or southeast moderate. Max 18C (64F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: bright start but becoming more cloudy. Chance of light rain or drizzle later. Wind south moderate. Max 16C (61F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Becoming drier later. Wind south moderate. Max 14C (57F).

Outlook: cloud and rain clearing eastwards to be replaced by more showery conditions.

Pollen count: Scotland: L: Northern England; L: Northern Ireland; L: Midlands M: East Anglia M: Wales M: South East M: South West M: London L: M: moderate L: low

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Northern Ireland	14.0	9.0	0.1

Santiago	36 97 s	Funchal	23 73 s
Barcelona	31 88 s	Geneva	19 81 s
Beirut	20 88 s	Gibraltar	21 70 s
Belgrade	25 77 s	Helsinki	10 50 c
Berlin	10 50 f	Hong K	25 77 f
Bermuda	15 59 s	Innsbruck	15 58 f
Buenos Aires	22 72 c	Istanbul	23 73 f
Bombay	28 78 s	Jeddah	36 97 s



ARTS 33-35

Britain joins the nations united in dance



LAW 37-41

Batting for sport: business or pleasure?



SPORT 42-48

England looking for Morris's drive in World Cup opener

TAKING ON THE BIG COMPANIES
Small business 32

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY MAY 23 1995

Members vote for first stage of move to £9bn bank

Halifax and Leeds to merge

By Sara McConnell

MEMBERS of the Halifax and Leeds Permanent yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favour of a merger between the two building societies. This was the first hurdle on the road to a stock market flotation, and the creation of a £9 billion bank to be called The Halifax.

Savers and borrowers of the two societies stand to gain an average of £500 to £600 each in a free share issue after a stock market flotation that could take place by the beginning of 1997. The merged group would then become a public company with assets of £9 billion and be consistent with the Halifax's stated aim of being the biggest provider of personal financial services in the UK.

The merger will take effect from August 1, provided the Building Societies Commission approves the deal.

Members of both societies were sceptical that the merger, which would create the third-biggest bank in the UK, would benefit them rather than the senior executives of the society. Ken Torode, a saver and borrower of The Leeds, called on the board to answer rumours that the merger would make Mike Blackburn, the Halifax's chief executive, a millionaire, and senior executives rich with share options.

Malcolm Barr, chairman of the Leeds, said there has never been any excessive greed on the part of Leeds executives and this would continue.

Serge Lourie, founder of the Halifax Action Group, which claims to have signed up hundreds of Halifax customers, said before the special meeting: "In our opinion, the merger is not going to benefit



Jon Foulds, chairman of the Halifax, left, with Mike Blackburn, yesterday before the result of the merger vote with the Leeds was announced

investors, borrowers or staff. The timetable is far too slow and we have been inundated with inquiries from investors who resent the fact that their money is going to be 'locked-up' for as much as up to two years."

Mr Lourie fears redundancies: "There is a clear overlap of branches. I am absolutely certain that a very substantial impact on branches and staff will follow through after the

conversion to a public company." A total of 1.2 million Halifax savers, 97.7 per cent of those voting, were in favour of the merger and only 30,000 were against. Of Halifax borrowers, 402,000 voted in favour, 97.6 per cent of those voting. A total of 10,000 voted against. At the Leeds, 548,000 savers, 95 per cent of those voting, were in favour. Of borrowers, 124,000, 94 per cent of those who voted, ap-

proved the merger. Both societies strongly rejected claims that the turnout was low and therefore unrepresentative of the membership as a whole. Just over a quarter of eligible Leeds members voted and only one in six Halifax members. Mr Barr, said he regarded the turnout as good. He said: "The voting turnout was high, the highest we normally get is 3 per cent for voting for board members." Under the

Building Society's Act, 75 per cent of investing members who vote and a majority of borrowing members who vote have to approve a merger. Members will have to wait for the merged society to convert to a public company, which will involve a second vote. Savers with more than £100 in their account on the qualifying date of November 25, 1994, will get a basic allocation of shares, expected

to be about £500. On top of this, savers with balances of between £1,000 and £50,000 who have been with either society for more than two years stand to get an extra bonus based on the balance in the account. Savers who are members of both societies will have the balances in their accounts merged and the bonus calculated on the total.

Pennington, page 27

BA has to write down USAir stake

By Martin Waller

BRITISH AIRWAYS has been forced to write down by half the value of its 24.6 per cent investment in USAir, the loss-making American carrier now in the throes of a complicated cost-cutting programme being thrashed out with the unions.

BA has long resisted pressure to reduce the value of its stake in USAir, even though that company's own auditor has cast doubt on its ability to continue in business. One other significant investor, Warren Buffett, the American stock market guru, has already accepted that his holding has lost much of its value over the past couple of years.

The writedown of £125 million left a huge dent in full-year figures from BA that otherwise featured record passengers and cargo being carried by the airline. BA announced pre-tax profits in the year to March 31 of £327 million, up £47 million on the restated figures for the previous year. Without the USAir provision, the rise would have been of 61 per cent to £452 million.

The figures left BA shares sharply lower, off 15p to 409p in spite of a dividend slightly ahead of market forecasts. BA is making a final payment of 8.9p, giving a total of 12.4p (11.1p), paid out of earnings before exceptional costs of 39.3p.

The one-off provision to cover the writedown pushed BA into a £102 million loss before tax in the last quarter of its financial year, against profits of £9 million a year previously. But the BA board put a brave face on the decision to cut the value of the holding, bought for \$400 million two years ago.

Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman, said the decision stemmed from USAir's suspension of dividends and a change in US accounting rules that required such a writedown on any diminution of value that was "less than temporary".

It would not have been necessary under UK accounting law. "It is ironic that it is happening at a moment in time when USAir certainly appears to be well on the way to turning the corner," Sir Colin said.

Derek Stevens, the finance director, described the writedown as "a technical adjustment". Sir Colin added: "We continue to believe very strongly in the long-term future of USAir."

Tempos, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100 3284.5 (+23.5)
Yield 4.15%
FT-SE All share 1814.90 (+9.12)
Nikkei 18759.12 (-551.75)

New York: 4376.58 (+35.82)
Dow Jones 4376.58 (+35.82)
S&P Composite 122.27 (+3.08)

US RATE
Federal Funds 6% (5.75%)
Long Bond 108% (108%)
Yield 8.91% (8.95%)

LONDON MONEY
3-mth Interbank 6% (6.25%)
Life long gilt 106% (106%)

STERLING
New York: 1.5745 (1.5705)
London: 1.5729 (1.5735)
DM 2.2655 (2.2627)
FF 1.1865 (1.1838)
Sfr 1.2670 (1.2680)
Yen 127.83 (128.50)
\$ Index 95.0 (94.9)

US \$
London: 1.4403 (1.4442)
FF 5.1045 (5.1145)
Sfr 1.1865 (1.1838)
Yen 87.48 (88.50)
\$ Index 90.4 (89.8)

Tokyo close Yen 87.24
Brent 15-day (Aug) \$18.06 (\$18.10)

London close \$382.55 (\$383.25)
* denotes midday trading price

British Gas cleared over direct debits

BRITISH GAS has been cleared of discriminating in favour of customers who pay by direct debit, after an investigation by Ofgas showed the company made similar profits from each class of customer (Ross Tienman writes).

However, Ofgas rejects claims by British Gas that prepayment customers are unprofitable. According to Ofgas, Public Gas Supply, an arm of British Gas, makes a 3 per cent profit margin on the gas it buys and sells on to Britain's households. The margin, equal to £11 per home, gives the company's Public Gas Supply (PGS) an annual profit of around £200 million.

In a report published yesterday, Ofgas said that, for an average family using 650 therms of gas a year, PGS earns a profit of 1.76p a therm from its direct-debit customers, 1.74p a therm from standard customers and 1.87p a therm from those with prepayment meters. PGS earned bigger margins through direct debit, but remained profitable across all groups of customer.

Salvation Army faces censure

By Robert Miller

TRUSTEES acting on behalf of the Salvation Army are expected to be publicly criticised by the Charity Commissioners after the completion of a two-year investigation into how the Army lost some £6 million after it became the victim of a sophisticated international fraud ring.

The Salvation Army, Britain's sixth-largest charity and the biggest provider of social services after the Government, lost the money after falling victim to a fraud involving the promise of huge profits from dealing in phoney standby letters of credit. Salvation Army officials ignored warnings from its three lay investment specialists to steer clear.

A spokesman for the Charity Commissioners said: "We are discussing with the Army the findings of our inquiry. It is too soon for us to say when or in what form any report or statement of the result of the inquiry may be published." The Metropolitan Police Company Fraud department investigation is continuing. Nobody has been charged.

Target set for more exporters in £165m competition plan

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government yesterday set a target of a 30 per cent increase in the number of UK exporters by the end of the decade as it unveiled a wide-ranging package of measures — including £165 million in new government spending — aimed at improving Britain's industrial competitiveness.

John Major led a team of Cabinet ministers in proclaiming the importance to Britain of improved competitiveness, allaying it to his stated target of doubling its living standards within the next 25 years.

He said much had happened since the Government's last White Paper on competitiveness a year ago "in which Britain can justifiably take pride" — record exports, expanding manufacturing and jobs and low inflation. "As a result, Britain's economy grew by 4 per cent last year and we are set to outpace our main competitors again this year."

But he said there were many areas where "Britain has been behind other countries, and our rivals will not wait for us to catch up and overtake them".

Although many of the proposals put forward by the document, *Forging Ahead*, have already been announced,

it did contain some new measures, especially on partial adoption of learning credits or vouchers for 16-year-olds, careers guidance, support for science, small business, taxation, inward investment, and public procurement.

The Government said it intended to work with businesses to increase by 30,000 by the year 2000 the 100,000 of the UK's 2.8 million companies which are currently exporters.

Improved DTT services for exporters will command an extra £40 million over the next four years, including £20 million of the new money involved in yesterday's package. Ministers said that the total new money behind the White Paper was £165 million. £125 million for the DTT and £40 million for a range of scientific and technology initiatives. A further £75 million of government expenditure will be reallocated from currently published spending totals.

Business broadly welcomed the White Paper, Howard Davies, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, saying it was much better than the 1994 model.

White Paper, page 26

Saatchi fighting ends

By Martin Waller

THE Saatchi brothers and Cordiant, the renamed advertising agency they founded, have settled the web of legal actions that were launched after they quit the group at the start of the year.

Cordiant is believed to have agreed to pay most of the costs of Maurice and Charles Saatchi, which are thought to be well above £200,000.

The various actions, which included the brothers being sued by their former employer for breach of contract and counter-suing for unfair dismissal and a wrangle over the use of the Saatchi name, now cease worldwide. The settle-

ment was brokered by Johan Eliassch, the Swedish head of Equity Partners, a film and property investment vehicle, and Clive Gibson, a Cordiant non-executive. Mr Eliassch is an old friend of Charles Saatchi and provided office space when the brothers were setting up their rival agency.

Cordiant is dropping its claim to profits made by the brothers on shares in Adidas, the sports-wear business in which they invested as part of its financial rescue, and a bid to regain a pensions settlement Adidas paid to the brothers. The pair, whose new business will be called M&C

Saatchi Agency, cannot solicit or act for Cordiant clients or employ its staff, other than those who have already moved across.

The four main defectors so far are having their "garden leave," during which they cannot work at the new agency, considerably shortened. The leave expires at the end of this month.

A \$50 million legal action in the US against Bill Muirhead, one of the four defectors, is being dropped, and Cordiant says it accepts "there was no wrongdoing" on his part.

Pennington, page 27

Workers have say on BAe managers' pay



Evans: bonus points count

TWO-THOUSAND shopfloor workers at a British Aerospace site in Lancashire are to have a say in the pay rises awarded to their managers.

Under a new performance appraisal system being introduced at the Chadderton aerostuctures plant near Oldham, workers will be invited to say how good bosses are at their jobs, and whether they have earned a rise.

Shopfloor views will be considered alongside those of each manager's colleagues and his or her own boss when annual reviews are held.

Details of the new pay review system will be revealed today in the magazine *Personnel Today*. All 350 managers on the site, which makes components for

Airbus jetliners and BAe's Avro regional jets, are expected to be put through the appraisal programme. If the scheme is successful, it could be extended to involve all of BAe's 46,500 employees.

A BAe spokesman said that the idea of assessment by subordinates was intended to help to give a more rounded view of a manager's performance.

It will take some time before it is reflected in remuneration," he said.

Quite whether shopfloor workers will one day be able to pass judgment on the performance of BAe's £488.773-a-year chief executive, Dick Evans, remains unclear.

Last year almost a quarter of Mr Evans's pay packet was made up of a

£140,000 bonus, reflecting a rise in profits and good progress in sorting out the company's problems.

Personnel chiefs at Chadderton, however, are convinced that the move to "360-degree feedback" as it is called in human resources newspeak, will have a big impact on management culture.

Ian Berg, Chadderton's operations personnel manager, told *Personnel Today* it was "a natural progression from having pay linked to performance to having pay linked to appraisal".

He added: "People tend to take things more seriously when you link them to pay."

More recently, the company has undergone a drastic programme of cost-cutting.

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Concerns on Japan mar global outlook

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE outlook for the world economy has darkened because of the problems of Japan, saddled with an overvalued currency and facing deflation, according to the latest forecast by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The OECD, which is holding its annual meeting in Paris, said the Japanese economy is set to grow by only half as much as it had estimated only six months ago. It now forecasts growth of 1.3 per cent for this year, a much lower estimate largely because of the sharp appreciation of the yen. The strong yen also means the

OECD is expecting falling prices or deflation in Japan. The lowering of growth forecasts for Japan was the main reason for a downward revision in growth for the 25 countries represented by the OECD. This is now forecast at 2.7 per cent this year against 3 per cent before and at 2.7 per cent in 1996 against an earlier estimate of 2.9 per cent.

Forecasts for growth in Germany were little changed from December but growth next year is likely to be dampened down by the appreciation of the mark. The OECD is predicting growth of 2.7 per cent next year, compared with its previous forecast of 3.5 per cent.

In contrast, the US, which has seen a sharp depreciation in the dollar, is likely to be better than before. The OECD has revised its forecast for 1996 to 2.3 per cent from 2 per cent.

The OECD's assessment coincided with publication of the latest economic outlook from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research in London. The institute has also revised down its growth forecasts for Japan sharply to 0.8 per cent and 3.1 per cent this year and next. In February, it was forecasting 2.2 per cent and 3.7 per cent.

Britain is expected to grow 3.5 per cent this year, slowing to 2.6 per cent in 1996. This forecast assumes that the Government is serious about getting underlying inflation below 2.5 per cent by the end of this Parliament — its stated aim — and raises interest rates further accordingly.

The institute assumes that to hit this target, base rates will be raised to 8 per cent by the end of this year (compared with 6.75 per cent now) and to 8.5 per cent next year. After this, it believes that rates could stabilise. It said that the failure to raise rates after the May monetary meeting had raised doubt about the strength of the Government's commitment to its inflation target.

Non-EU trade gap at £474m

BRITAIN'S trade gap with countries outside the European Union nearly doubled last month but without erratic items, the deficit actually improved (Janet Bush writes).

Overall, the deficit rose to £474 million in April from £238 million in March, but the Central Statistical Office said it was mainly due to £200 million of aircraft imports.

The underlying deficit — excluding oil and aeroplanes — fell for the second month in a row to £308 million from £375 million in March. Statisticians think the underlying trend of visible trade is almost flat. In the three months to April, the deficit was £1 billion (£1.4 billion previous three months).

Also published yesterday was the latest Gallup poll of consumer confidence which showed only the tiniest improvement in how people regard the outlook for their households. The public's assessment of the general economic situation over the next 12 months showed no improvement at all. In May, 23 per cent thought it would improve but 38 per cent said it would deteriorate.



The aptly named Peter Ferrari, a bank manager at the NatWest Business Centre in Battersea, London, is to drive the latest Ferrari 355, worth £85,000, for 1,000 miles round Britain in five days to raise £5,000 for the charity Counsel & Care for the Elderly

Kunick feels instant effects of National Lottery scratch card

By MARTIN BARROW

INSTANTLY, the National Lottery scratch card, is beginning to have an adverse impact on takings in other sectors of the leisure industry.

Kunick said yesterday that the scratch cards were having a more significant effect on amusement machine takings than the National Lottery itself.

Ladbroke Group also said instantly, launched in March,

had had "some negative effect" on its UK retail betting business. The company was also concerned about the impact of competition from the lottery on its Vernons Pools.

Kunick expects some relief through the relaxation of controls on amusement machines in the autumn. New legislation will also allow machines to be installed in licensed betting offices.

Yesterday, Kunick reported pre-tax profits of £7.9 million for the half-year to March 31, including an exceptional profit of £3.9 million. The comparable profit was £4.97 million, including a £1.9 million exceptional credit.

The company, which has emerged from a lengthy period of restructuring, is restoring the interim dividend at 0.25p a share, due on July 13.

Take-off near for FLA project

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE, the European civil jet consortium, is within weeks of announcing a new arm to build military aircraft. The first product will be a four-engine transport plane, known as the Future Large Aircraft (FLA).

Creation of a military aircraft business will offer the first chance to widen the Airbus partnership beyond the core companies of Aerospatiale of France, Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa) of Germany, British Aerospace and Casa of Spain.

It will also open the way to more efficient collaboration in European military aircraft projects. Instead of each partner country having its own production line, Airbus will build all the planes, probably near its French headquarters in Toulouse. So-called single-source production of sub-assemblies by the companies will add to the efficiencies and ensure no country or company has overall control.

Establishment of the Airbus military arm to oversee design and production of the 300-aircraft programme is a prerequisite for Britain to rejoin the FLA programme.

The partners have agreed on specifications, including an operational height of 31,000 feet and a cruising speed of Mach 0.72, that will meet the need of the Royal Air Force to use the plane for in-flight refuelling and transport tasks.

Daimler-Benz appears to have lost its battle to design and build the wings for the aircraft. Provided Britain confirms its requirement for 40 to 50 FLAs, the wings are likely to be developed and built by British Aerospace, Europe's leading wing expert.

BAE is expected to have 20 per cent of the equity in the new business. That will give it an equal share with Aerospatiale, Dasa and Alenia of Italy, which is not a member of the civil Airbus group. Spain, which has a 4.2 per cent share in Airbus, will have 10 per cent of the military arm. Companies from Portugal, Belgium and Turkey are expected to share the remaining 10 per cent. However, it is not clear how the development costs of the plane will be funded. They are estimated at up to £2 billion.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Body Shop founders see pay rise 3.9%

ANITA RODDICK and Gordon Roddick, the founders of Body Shop International who are also the eco-friendly cosmetics and toiletries retailer's respective chief executive and chairman, saw their pay rise by just under 3.9 per cent to £122,608 and £122,641 in the year to February 25. However, Body Shop's annual report shows that the Roddicks are not the highest-paid directors. The remuneration of Stuart Rose, managing director, increased by 10.3 per cent to £216,827. Mr Rose also holds 2.06 million options, which are now exercisable at an average price of 87p, giving him a theoretical paper profit of about £1.07 million if he were to exercise them at yesterday's closing price of 139p, down 1p.

Shares in Body Shop, which earlier this month accompanied a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £33.5 million in the year to February 25 with a profits warning, have performed poorly, coming down from a peak of more than 260p a year ago. The group, which saw last year's turnover grow 12 per cent to £219.7 million, continued to expand, with 157 new store openings last year, taking its total to 1,210 in 45 countries.

EU rules on shares

EUROPEAN UNION finance ministers reached a political agreement on rules providing minimum protection for small investors in the European Union. Under the new rules, which are expected to come into force by mid-1997, investors will be covered for at least 20,000 ecu (£16,000) in the event an investment firm becomes insolvent. As expected, Germany voted against the proposal on the grounds that there was no need for EU legislation. Germany took the EU to the European Court of Justice last year over the adoption of the deposit guarantee directive. A ruling is expected by the end of this year.

Whessoe pays interim

WHESOE, the instrumentation and control company that passed payment of a final dividend last year, returns to the dividend list with a 1.5p a share interim payment for the six months to March 31. Continuing operations earned profits of £2.59 million, equivalent to earnings of 3.5p a share. However, at the pre-tax level there were losses of £2.3 million after a £4 million loss on the sale of discontinued operations. That compared with profits of £1.9 million in the first half of the previous year. Actual losses per share were 10.4p, against earnings of 4.4p last time. The shares fell 1p to 122p.

Parts Group starts well

INDEPENDENT Parts Group, the manufacturer and distributor of automotive parts whose shares were floated on the stock market last September, said it had made a satisfactory start to the current year, with sales continuing to grow at Tuborex and Voco, its two subsidiaries. Yesterday, the company reported pre-tax profits of £2.2 million in the first 11 months of trading. Sales were £14.8 million. The company is proposing a dividend of 2.8p a share for the year, in line with the flotation forecast. The shares fell 5p to 141p, compared with the flotation price of 112p.

MCI expands in US

MCI COMMUNICATIONS, the US telecommunications company that is 20 per cent owned by British Telecom, has agreed to acquire Nationwide Cellular Service, the largest cellular reseller in America, for \$190 million in cash, or \$18.50 per share. MCI said the acquisition is the first step of its strategy to provide national wireless services integrated with other MCI services. Nationwide, which reported 1994 revenue of \$213 million, provides wireless services to more than 275,000 business and residential customers in 10 main cities that encompass nearly 25 per cent of the US population.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank
Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.28
Austria Sch	16.94
Belgium Fr	48.28
Canada \$	2.235
Cyprus Cyp£	0.768
Denmark Kr	8.47
Finland Mk	7.48
France Fr	8.43
Germany Dm	2.42
Greece Dr	381.00
Hong Kong \$	12.75
Ireland P	0.05
Israel	5.2545
Italy Lit	2735.00
Japan Yen	151.00
Malta	0.200
Netherlands Gld	2.880
Norway Kr	10.67
Portugal Esc	204.00
S Africa Rd	nat.
Spain Ptas	204.80
Sweden Kr	12.21
Switzerland Fr	2.02
Turkey Lira	1808
USA \$	1.893

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

WHITE PAPER ON COMPETITIVENESS

Industry 'needs to improve'

THE Government insisted yesterday that "short-term progress" should not mask the need for continued improvement in Britain's industrial competitiveness.

Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, said the Government's latest White Paper on competitiveness would be followed by a further document next year, forming an annual report on the state of British industry.

He maintained the initiative did not depend on him remaining in his present post.

but said that he intended to be in his current job in order to present next year's competitiveness report.

Mr Heseltine said there was no contradiction between the Government's claim that the economy was improving and the argument of the White Paper that although Britain has a number of world-class companies — this year's document lists the best performing sectors and companies — it also has a long tail of poor performers.

Looking back over the past year, yesterday's document, *Forging Ahead*, said that Britain had made good progress in the factors that determine competitiveness. "We continue to close the gap on our major competitors, especially in key measures like manufacturing productivity."

But it admitted that this gap, previously estimated by the Department of Trade and Industry at about 25 per cent, remained significant and it insisted that the search for greater competitiveness had to continue in spite of improved economic performance. "The pressure is for continual change. Targets set today may no longer be world class when they are achieved. There is no winning post in the search for competitiveness."

The White Paper lists spirit distilling, followed by office machinery, construction equipment, pesticides, and tractor-making as Britain's most successful industries, and mentions individual companies such as ICI, British Airways, Glaxo, British Steel, Rolls-Royce and Coats Vivella as world class.

Mr Heseltine accepted that the document's promotion of government "sponsorship" of industry was controversial, but insisted it did not mean the Government picking winners, subsidising uncompetitive industries, or trying to direct business according to a centrally conceived national plan.

Sponsorship meant help on export strategies, benchmarking, spreading best practice, minimising unnecessary regulation, providing



Michael Portillo, Employment Secretary, sees the new training targets as more demanding

comprehensive support for industry, and understanding the strengths and weaknesses of business.

Among the measures are:
□ Training. Business leaders will today proclaim new education and training targets that the White Paper yesterday accepted on behalf of the Government. Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, said they were "more demanding and better directed".

□ Learning credits. The Government is to issue a consultation document on learning credits — providing money to individuals for training through a voucher system. But ministers yesterday accepted a partial introduction of the

idea, backed by the CBI and based on findings published by Coopers and Lybrand, the consultant, including a more consistent approach to the funding of provision for 16 to 19-year-olds.

□ Education. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, announced a range of measures for schools, including capital charging. Schools would also be required to demonstrate their awareness of labour markets.

The White Paper includes a number of other points. The Government accepts, for example, that public concern continues about top people's pay. On privatisation, it says: "There is no absolute frontier between the public and the

private sectors." In order to increase inward investment, the DTI's Invest in Britain Bureau is to be restructured, with a 20 per cent increase in its staff.

Additional funds will be provided for technology transfer and other scientific moves. With industry, the Government will publish a guide for employers on pay flexibility as well as a skills audit of the United Kingdom.

The document also includes new programmes to help smaller firms, enhancing services to be delivered through the Government's local Business Link network, and 100 further deregulation moves aimed at cutting red tape.

Clarke aims to get value for money on purchases

AS PART of the Government's competitiveness announcement, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, has put forward proposals to improve government performance as the biggest purchaser in Britain.

The Treasury published a White Paper on public procurement, *Setting New Standards* — the first move by the Government on procurement for a decade. At present, it spends £40 billion on range of goods and services. A further £20 billion is spent by purchasing authorities in the National Health Service.

Mr Clarke said that with policies such as contracting out, private finance and market testing, government departments were now doing more of their business through procurement instead of in-house provision.

He said: "The more procurement there is, the more important it becomes that government departments should make a first-class job of it. The Government owes nothing less to citizens, taxpayers and suppliers." With the aim of getting best value for money and increasing the competitiveness of suppliers, the White Paper proposes a new strategy for government procurement that departments will now implement.

After a survey of suppliers that showed dissatisfaction with government procure-

ment policies and practices, the strategy will include a clear commitment to "world class" procurement standards, an agenda for benchmarking, and a "step change" in staff skills and professionalism.

The standards include a broader interpretation of procurement to cover all non-pay expenditure and emphasise integrated procurement costing, including full costs and benefits over the life-cycle of a purchase.

David Hunt, Minister for Science, yesterday announced an £80 million boost for science, engineering and technology as part of the competitiveness initiative.

At the heart of the move is a £40 million foresight challenge fund aimed at building partnerships with industry to keep the UK at what the Government sees as the forefront of technological development. The aim is to match the new money with an equivalent sum from the private sector.

The fund is in addition to the £70 million for supporting small businesses and technology enterprises as part of the DTI's competitiveness package.

Reports by

PHILIP BASSETT
industrial editor

Riva Group plc

(Incorporated and registered in England and Wales under the Companies Act 1985 - No 1384967)

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICIAL LIST

by

ALBERT E SHARP

of

the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of Riva Group plc

Authorised			Issued and fully paid	
Number	Amount		Number	Amount
1,999,987	£1,999,987.00	ordinary shares of 10p each	28,793,918	£2,879,391.80

The principal activities of the Group are the provision and service of retail point of sale terminals and store management information systems to the retail, wholesale, pubs and restaurant markets in Europe.

Copies of the company listing document published on 22nd May 1995 are available during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays) excepted up to and including 24th May 1995 from the Company Announcements Office, of the London Stock Exchange, London Stock Exchange Tower, Capital Court, Exchange off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 1HP for collection only, and up to and including 9th June 1995 from the Company's registered office at Corporation House, Barn Field Road, Wincoburn Industrial Park, Wetherington, Bolton, BL5 3XP and from:

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23 May 1995

NHL bids
for £1.2bn
mortgage
portfolio

Cadbury

THE TIMES RENTALS

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□ Saying goodbye to the mutual □ Saatchis treated more cordially than Cordiant □ Can ICI play the starring role?

Members love to say yes

□ OPPONENTS of the Halifax takeover of the Leeds have proved as vocal and as eloquent as opponents of all other mergers, takeovers and flotations. As usual, they were in no sense representative. The confusion over the flotation of Abbey National obscured the financial message for members of other societies. Lloyds Bank's £1.8 billion cash offer for the Cheltenham & Gloucester, though less satisfactory, finally drove it home. People who merely lend to, or borrow from a successful mutual business can pick up a tidy windfall if they merely agree to plans made by managers. And few members, other than employees, care about the plans one way or the other, so long as the society/bank continues to do business in the same way.

That strikes most people as a good reason to say yes. Fortunately, the answers arrived at by this bizarre democratic exercise seem roughly right so far. As the avalanche gathers strength, an element of competition is also building up. A short while ago, National & Provincial seemed content to keep its mutual status. Now it is merely conducting a sealed bid auction. The only thing that might really upset its members is that if the society most were perfectly content with in the past tries to stay as it is. An army of plc punters now plays

the game of spotting the next merger in time to join in.

The mortgage market has shrunk. It is not likely to return to the heady days of the mid-1980s, on which most bigger societies' strategies were based. The free market way to adjust is via amalgamations that rationalise the industry. That avoids painful cutthroat competition and unseemly failures that damage the reputation of all.

Sadly, laws permitting societies to convert into plc banks, rule out any further substantive mergers based on the mutual principle. They do not broadcast cash bounties. Mutuality has proved a successful way of building up an industry that has been far more successful than commercial banks. On the whole, it has given both savers and borrowers a better deal than most banks and incorporated central mortgage lenders. But it is inflexible, as some household name life assurance societies are also discovering.

Behind the management hype, there is no doubting that the changes now sweeping building societies stem from weakness,

albeit weakness stemming from pursuing ambition further than the market could permanently bear. The enlarged Halifax should indeed go on to higher things, becoming a fearsome competitor to the traditional banks in the consumer financial services some are now targeting. Another big amalgamation or two might usefully add to national high street competition.

Oddly, however, the true winners, not least for customers, might be low-cost societies that keep their heads down and wait for others to spend many millions to cut out the industry's excess capacity.

Charlotte Street surrender

□ ALL wars end in a formal truce, but some truces look more like abject and unconditional surrender. The truce that has been brokered between Maurice Saatchi and his old employer makes the Treaty of Versailles look like an even-handed and fair settlement.

Maurice and his camp get, in

PENNINGTON



no particular order: the disputed £24 million profit from the holding in Adidas, the services of the four lieutenants without a long delay for "garden leave", no further hassle over the £29 million pension payment paid to the brothers, which Cordiant had wanted back, and a groveling apology to Bill Muirhead.

Cordiant gets, well, not very much really. The brothers cannot set up shop as the New Saatchi Agency; instead they will be M&C Saatchi Agency, which hardly seems an arduous curb on their future performance. They have to wait a whole seven months before they can poach Cordiant's staff or clients — excepting those they have poached already. The Cordiant

board have been spared time-consuming and expensive legal action that they would probably not have won. But this begs the question why such action was brought in the first case except out of pique when Maurice's departure, as planned by some highly unplanned defections.

The bitterest blow must be the agreement, apparently intended to be kept a strict secret, for Cordiant to pay most of the brothers' costs, which must have topped £250,000.

With the Adidas money in their back pockets, profit from a deal that rumour has it was the final straw for their former colleagues on the board before their ousting, they would hardly have had to throw themselves on the mercy of the legal aid system, but the Cordiant board has paid up in any case.

For Cordiant, the matter is now over and done with, which is at least a blessing. For the Saatchis, they have the key staff already in place and a fair kernel of new accounts, clients and employees at the old place are not precluded from knocking on

the door at the end of the year, and the Adidas nest-egg will go a long way towards funding the costs of creating the new agency.

See the price Grow and Grow

□ PUBLIC bids in America have much in common with blockbuster Hollywood films. They are filled with dramatic moments, contain a sprinkling of memorable one-liners, and cost almost as much thanks to a cast of thousands of investment bankers and lawyers who earn superstar fees for walk-on parts.

Unfortunately, the similarity does not end there. The plots of many US bids are confused and the endings often anti-climactic. As the final credits roll, everyone sits back trying to figure out who actually won.

ICI's bid for Grow contains all these elements. Last week's auction for the company was supposed to be the climax of the battle between ICI and Sherwin-Williams. ICI won the day with a generous offer. But like a bad movie, the vanquished foe now

threatens to rise up and launch a fresh attack, claiming the rules were unfair.

Admittedly the going is getting tougher for Sherwin-Williams all the time. The lock-out clauses in the new offer mean that it would now have to pay ICI \$24 million, or \$1.50 for each Grow share, for the pleasure of outbidding it. That means that Sherwin-Williams would have to pay an effective \$24 a share to outbid ICI, and at that level Grow Group begins to look very expensive.

If Sherwin-Williams does accept defeat the question is whether it has already poached ICI into paying too much for a modest paint manufacturer. ICI after all has been forced to raise its original offer by 22 per cent. ICI is confident that Grow will enhance its earnings immediately but that confidence depends on cost cutting to improve Grow's depressed profits. Those costs should not be difficult to cut since Grow has an expensive head office in New York as well as regional centres in Kentucky and California, some of which will be surplus to requirements after a takeover. But Grow has wrestled unsuccessfully with its own cost base and only time will reveal whether ICI can be more successful. This one will certainly keep the audience in its seats until the final reel.

NHL bids for £1.2bn mortgage portfolios

By Neil Bennett

NATIONAL Home Loans, the mortgage lender which underwent a financial reconstruction this year, is bidding to acquire two mortgage portfolios from rival lenders worth a total of more than £1.2 billion.

The group yesterday said it was actively looking for acquisitions to expand the size of its loan book. "We are currently reviewing a number of larger opportunities in competition with other lenders," said Jonathan Perry, chairman.

In particular, the company is believed to have submitted bids to buy two mortgage portfolios which are being sold in secret auctions. One is said to be worth more than £1 billion, the other at least £200 million. NHL is thought to be bidding against as many as six other institutions in the auctions.

Last week, NHL bought a portfolio from an unnamed continental bank for £25 million, but a future deal is likely to be many times larger. The group needs to buy further mortgages to shore up its own dwindling lending book.

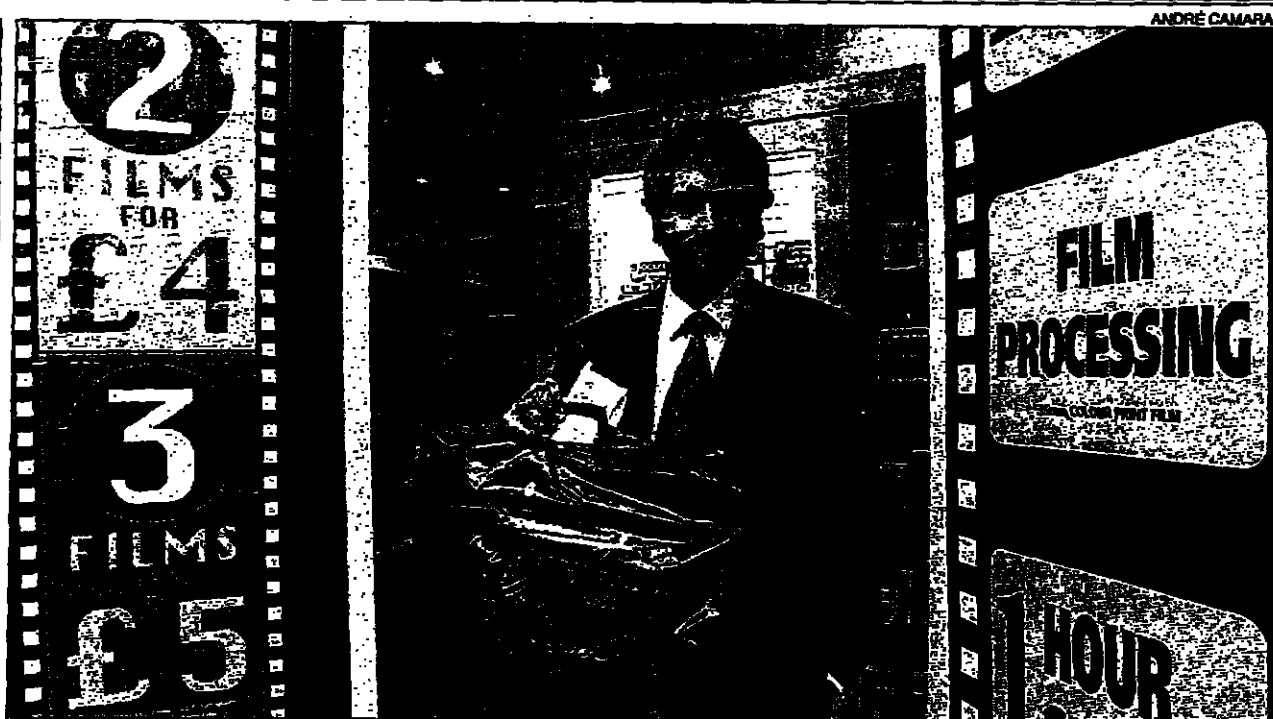
NHL's ambitious acquisition plans came to light as it announced pre-tax profits in the half-year to March 31 of £6.1 million, a rise of 49 per cent. This was achieved after a £2.6 million fall in bad debt provisions to £6.5 million and in spite of a 15 per cent fall in mortgage lending to £1.54 billion.

The recent rises in interest rates meanwhile contributed to a 20 per cent fall in operating income to £21.9 million.

HomeLoans Direct, the company's new lending subsidiary, which began operating last autumn, has so far attracted only 800 applications, worth £40 million. This is too little to match the fall in the group's old lending book, built up before the recession. But Mr Perry insisted that the business was growing according to plan. "Each week is a record week. That is all we want," he said.

Mr Perry repeated NHL's intention to pay a dividend at the end of the year, the first since 1991 when the group was plunged into a financial crisis.

Tempos, page 28
House or home? page 29



Integration of SupaSnaps within Sketchley's dry cleaning chain is on target under John Jackson, the chief executive

Sketchley cleans up

SUPASNAPS is on target to trade from more than 500 high street sites after the integration of the film processing business with the Sketchley dry cleaning chain. Sketchley expects to introduce a developing and printing service in 150 dry cleaning outlets this year.

The integration of the two formats resulted in the closure of a further 26 loss-making outlets last year, lifting the total closures since SupaSnaps was acquired from Dixons for £4.3 million two years ago to 70.

Group pre-tax profits rose to £6.4 million from £5.1 million, giving earnings of 7.2p a share (6.7p). The total dividend is increased to 3.4p a share from 3.2p, with a final 2.4p due July 12. The shares rose 4p to 94p.

London Clubs wins with high-rollers

By Carl Mortished

HIGH-ROLLING Asian gamblers contributed to another winning year at the Ritz and Les Ambassadeurs, which together brought in the lion's share of London Clubs International's operating profit of £32 million, up 28 per cent.

Profits from the two casinos accounted for 84 per cent of the total, in spite of London Clubs' strategy of widening its exposure to more modest establishments and expanding abroad.

Alan Goodenough, chief executive, said the National Lottery was not affecting the cheaper end of the market, with improved attendances at the Golden Nugget and the Rendezvous. "Average loss per head at the Golden Nugget is

around £30, still higher than the National Lottery," he said. The Palm Beach suffered from lower winnings, leaving London Clubs with an average win percentage of 20.2.

Abroad, London Clubs is expanding. The company shortly expects to announce a joint venture to bid for a licence to operate a casino in Dublin. Cruise-line business disappointed.

Pro-forma pre-tax profits for the year to March 26, including flotation proceeds, rose from £23 million to £30 million, with earnings up from 19.6p to 26.7p a share. The full-year dividend is 13.25p.

Tempos, page 28

ICI wins battle for US paint maker with \$350m offer

By Neil Bennett

ICI yesterday defeated Sherwin-Williams in the bid battle for Grow Group, the American paint manufacturer, after Grow accepted its raised offer of \$350 million and urged its shareholders to accept.

Last night, however, Wall Street dealers speculated that Sherwin-Williams, America's largest paint group, may still take legal action to return with an even higher offer after telling Grow that it has "serious concerns" about the procedures in the bidding round and that it was reserving the right to submit further offers. ICI raised its bid for Grow by 22 per cent to \$22 a share in an effort to defeat Sherwin-Williams. ICI is offering \$21.40 a share to Corimon, a Venezuelan investment company that owns 25 per cent of Grow's shares. ICI's bid easily topped Sherwin-Williams' offer of \$20 a share, only 50 cents a share higher than its original bid.

The acquisition of Grow will make ICI the largest paint manufacturer in the world and give it almost national

coverage throughout the US. The auction was established by Grow last week in an effort to settle the rival claims by the two bidders. But Sherwin-Williams has objected to the limited time allowed for bidding and is believed to have wanted longer to put together a higher offer.

In an effort to prevent Sherwin from raising its bid again, ICI has tripled the penalty that Grow must pay if the current deal does not go through. If Sherwin-Williams now returns with a successful offer, it will have to pay ICI \$24 million in compensation. This is equivalent to \$1.50 a share, which would force Sherwin-Williams to pay a heavy premium for Grow, unless it had the compensation deal overturned in the US courts.

In spite of the increase in the offer, ICI said the acquisition of Grow will improve the group's earnings after a round of cost-cutting. "We are confident that the investment in the Grow acquisition will create value and enhance ICI's earnings in its first full year," said

John Danzeisen, the chief executive of ICI Paints in North America. In the current year, Grow will have sales of about \$500 million, although its profits are under pressure because of heavy price competition in the paints market.

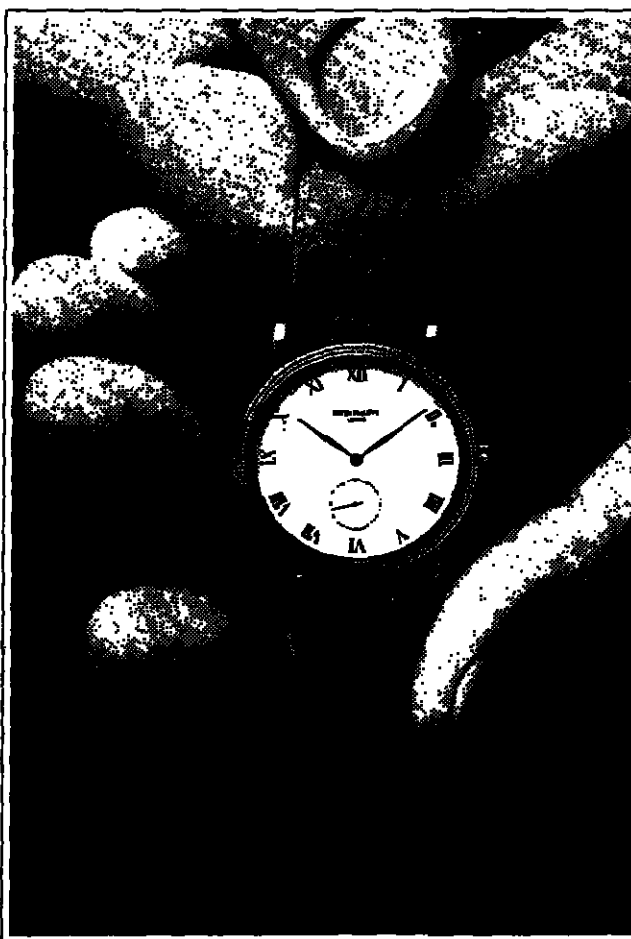
In a statement, Grow said its directors were abandoning their neutral position in the bid battle and were unanimously recommending the ICI bid. They also urged shareholders not to accept Sherwin-Williams' lower offer.

Russell Banks, Grow's president, said: "We are extremely pleased that both ICI and Sherwin-Williams participated in the formal bidding process. We believe that Grow's shareholders have benefited greatly from this auction process."

Grow's shares traded above \$22 after the announcement as Wall Street traders waited for a response from Sherwin-Williams. The deadline for ICI's bid has been extended for four days to June 5 to give investors time to accept.

Pennington, this page

For more than a century and a half, Patek Philippe has been known as the finest watch in the world. The reason is very simple. It is made differently. It is made using skills and techniques that others have lost or forgotten. It is made with attention to detail very few people would notice. It is made, we have to admit, with a total disregard for time. If



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Watches of Switzerland - Selected Branches Nationwide

Russians develop taste for Western confectionery

Cadbury joins chocolate revolution

By Colin Narbrough
WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

CHUDOVO, near St Petersburg, cradle of the Bolshevik revolution, is to become the base from which Cadbury Schweppes plans its conquest of the vast chocolate market of the Russians. The confectionery and soft drinks group has unveiled a £75 million plot to build a strategic chocolate plant in Chudovo from which it will try to meet post-communist Russia's seemingly insatiable hunger for sweets.

The plant will allow Cadbury, which already supplies the Russian market with a million chocolate bars a day, to substitute goods it currently has to import from Britain and elsewhere with domestically produced lines.

Russia may still be a shambles, and have a long way to go before it becomes a market economy, but the Russian consumer is making the transition to

sweet-eating in a big way, with annual confectionery consumption of about 500,000 tonnes. Last year, Russia was the third-largest confectionery market in Europe, after Germany and Britain, and Cadbury's advance into the Russian market has been rewarded with a place among the top brands for its Wispa, Picnic and Fruit & Nut bars. Cadbury's also imports its Piastan brand from Germany.

The Chudovo plant, in the Novodgorod region near St Petersburg, is being built in partnership with Rostel, Cadbury's Russian distributor-partner. Work has begun, and the factory should be ready by the second half of next year.

Taking its product and production to Russia, which stretch from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean, Cadbury is hoping to double its present share of what is one of the last big, undeveloped consumer markets to about 10 per cent. Cadbury's sweet exports to the Russian

market tripled last year to 26,000 tonnes. But the company is not alone. Nestlé, the Swiss company, has acquired Russian production facilities and Mars, the US food major, is also putting up a plant. The loser in the intensifying battle for the Russian sweet tooth is probably the old Soviet brands, which have fallen out of favour with their former captive consumers. Some Western estimates believe imported brands have already seized more than half the Russian market.

Cadbury, which produces chocolate bars and confectionery at a plant at Kobierzyce, Poland, is undaunted by the prospect of spanning the Eurasian landmass via the Russian steppe.

Beyond Russia, Cadbury already has its foot firmly planted in China where a plant scheduled to start production this year will put the company in a good position to benefit from the massive expansion of consumer demand expected there.

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Exchange is no robbery?

HOTELS can even beat bankers when it comes to exchange rates. At the Quay Thistle Hotel, Poole, bankers from London were aghast at the weekend when an American was told \$1 was worth 54p. After commission of £3, he received £51 for his \$100. When challenged, the assistant general manager said: "You'll find exorbitant exchange rates at most hotels; won't you?" Not so. At London's Tower Thistle Hotel, \$1.70 equalled £1 yesterday, and at The Savoy \$1.76 equalled £1, both with commission included. It obviously pays to take a banker away for the weekend. At their insistence, the American's £51 was changed back into \$100.

A TRAIN by any other name... A new rose, Eurostar, "with large globe shaped blooms of yellow with a sweet fragrance" was launched at the Chelsea Flower Show yesterday. The rose was cultivated in Denmark and will be marketed in Britain by Marlocks Roses of Oxford. May it never bloom late.

Bank's blessing

ENCOURAGING to note that the Greeks acknowledge God and Mammon in banking. Yannis Costopoulos, chairman of the \$12 billion Alpha Credit Bank, Greece's largest private sector bank, last night hosted a reception at the Honourable Artillery Company marking the bank's acquisition of Commercial Bank of London. Among the 300-plus domestic and international guests was His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain.



ALLIED Domecq expects to announce a winner of its competition for names for its first pub chain (City Diary, May 17) this week. Closing entries include: FlyOver & Firkin in Hammersmith, Felony & Firkin in Old Bailey, Fillices & Firkin at Ascot, Fall & Firkin outside Baring's, and Forgive & Firkin, near Westminster Cathedral.

Sound returns

DO YOU recall in which year the £1 coin replaced the note. Sir Clive Sinclair launched the CS car, and the Bank rate was 14 per cent? Why, it was 1985 — and ten years ago yesterday-Smith & Williamson's Smaller Securities Unit Trust was launched. £1,000 invested then would now be worth £4,167.60.

On their bikes

MICHAEL HESELTINE, President of the Board of Trade, tells me that he had an uneasy moment during his rewarding visit to China last week. At a ceremony in Shanghai, a glance at the programme showed that he was to unveil a "plaque". Fortunately, it was a misspelling. The Middle Kingdom clearly left Heselstine impressed. He found superhighways, first-class hotels, and a country bent on becoming a world leader. "When I was last there, 22 years ago, they all had bicycles and Mao suits."

COLIN CAMPBELL

From great expectations to bleak house on home front

The house price debate is at the top of the political agenda, say Robert Miller and Anne Ashworth

In the Nineties, ingrained pessimism has become the best qualification for a career in making house price predictions. The courage to be the bearer of bad tidings is another prerequisite, as Douglas Wood, NatWest Professor of Finance at the Manchester Business School, has discovered, after his predictions on the BBC's *Panorama* programme last night that prices would continue to fall in real terms for the next 20 years.

His critics argue that short-term forecasting of the housing market is tricky enough without trying to gaze into the next millennium. Nevertheless, he has put the house price debate at the top of the political agenda, a move that will strengthen the arguments of mortgage lenders at their crisis meeting on Thursday with Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security.

The bosses of the £350 billion mortgage industry want to force a U-turn in government policy. They contend that plans to severely restrict mortgage income support payments from October will so harm the housing market that Professor Wood's predictions could even come true.

Professor Wood has powerful supporters for his doom-laden forecasts. Bears of the housing market include Roger Bootle, the respected chief economist at Midland Bank. Last week he told the building societies annual conference in Birmingham that prices still had further to fall. The reception was frosty.

The professor believes that by 2015, prices could be as much as 30 per cent lower in real terms than today, as the changes in the labour market transform the average employee from a full-time staff member to a short-term contract worker, fraught with uncertainties. Unable to predict his future earnings, he will be unwilling to take on the responsibility of home ownership and mortgage repayments.

The 10 million Britons who have already shouldered both these burdens will, however, be relieved to learn that not everyone in the home price prediction business is as melancholic.

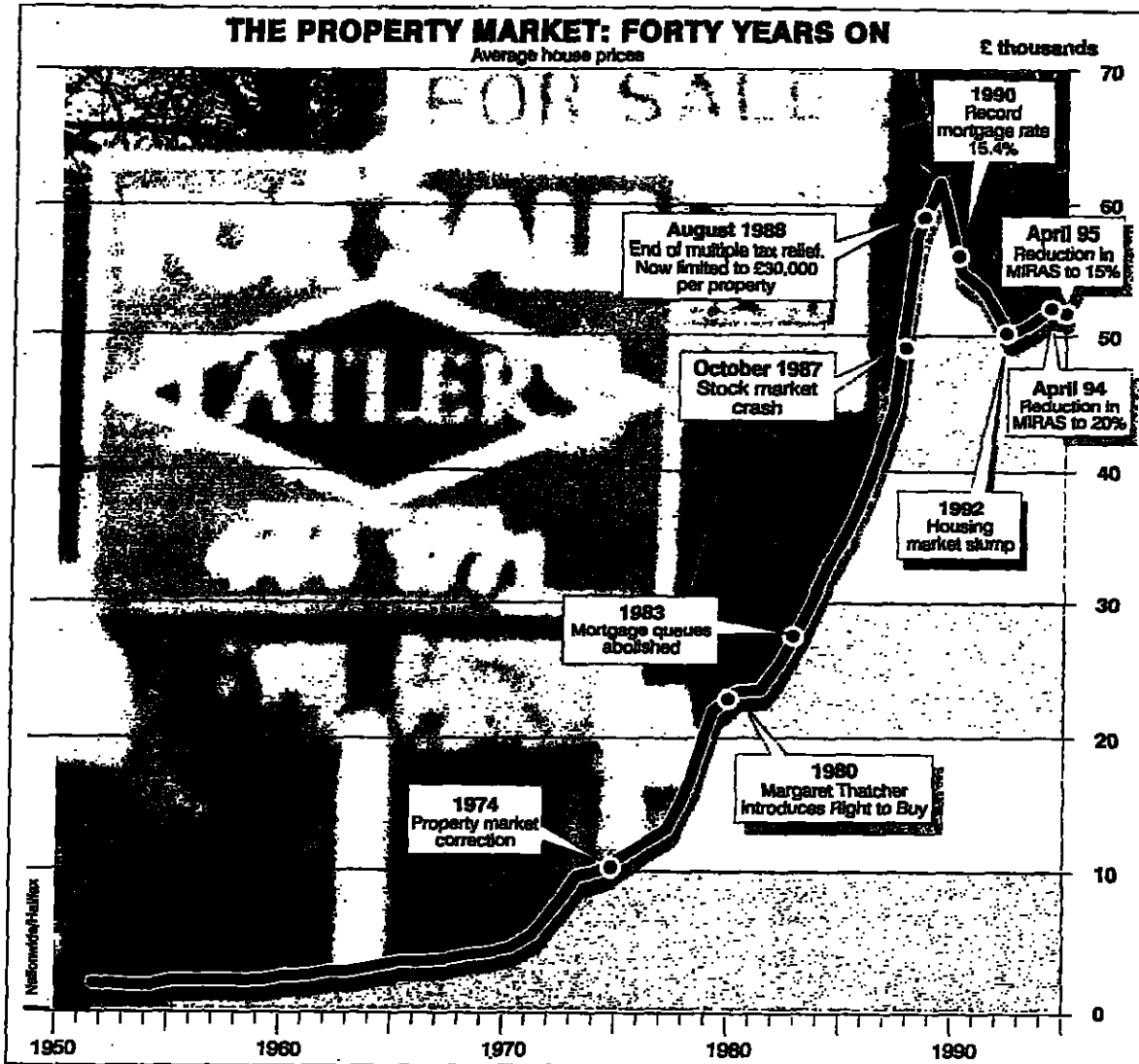
A survey by *The Times* yesterday of the leading commentators reveals none who believe that prices are set to return to the giddy heights of Eighties' great expectations. At the same time, however, there is a growing belief that relatively stable house prices in a low inflationary environment could provide a permanence to family life, missing in the sell-up and move-on mentality of the Eighties' housing market, reinforcing the old-fashioned view that a house is for life and is very much a long-term investment.

One supporter of such views is Margaret Schwarz, economist at the Abbey National, who believes that people will start to buy houses later in their lives and stay in them for longer periods. Underpinning house prices will be planning restrictions and environmental concerns that mean that numbers of new houses will not be built.

Ms Schwarz adds: "In a low inflation environment, with house prices stable, the nominal value of your house will remain the same, but if you have a repayment mortgage, your debt will be decreasing, as you are repaying a certain percentage each month."

Others, like Claran Barr, UK economist at Morgan Grenfell, are convinced that the Government cannot afford to turn its back on home ownership. He says: "The repercussions arising from a massive and sustained fall in house prices are so dire that it is inconceivable any Government would let it happen. It would impact on all sorts of other key areas of the economy, such as the construction industry and retail sales."

As the lenders and ministers meet, they will be looking back to the halcyon days of the Eighties and wonder how



they came to be at such odds on what was once a shared goal of wider home ownership. Perhaps, it is no coincidence that housing market activity peaked in 1989, shortly after the abolition of multiple mortgage tax relief. Between 1964 and 1977, the birthrate in the UK fell by a third. By the end of the Eighties, most late baby boomers had taken their first step on to the housing ladder. This means that today's first-time buyers will no longer provide the impetus for a recovery in the housing market as their numbers are far fewer, although the affordability of property for this category has never been better.

In 1990, first-time buyers were spending more than a quarter of their average monthly income to support their mortgage payments. Last year, that ratio fell to 13 per cent.

Within this band of first-time buyers who entered the market in the 1980s were an estimated 2.5 million or so who were encouraged, with active support from the Government, to purchase from a local authority under the "right-to-buy" schemes. A significant proportion of these owners are now unable to move. There are few buyers, and even if there were, many lenders will not grant home loans on these properties. These unfortunate borrowers are likely to form the permanent "rump" of those caught in the negative equity trap, with home loans larger than the value of their property. At present, there are about 1.2 million

people judged to be living with negative equity, with only few mortgage lenders willing to offer special packages to help to resolve the problem.

Furthermore, Adrian Coles, Director-General of the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), whose members represent 98 per cent of the mortgage market, suggests that at least twice as many homeowners again are living in a "neutral" equity situation. This is where the loan is just covered by the value of the property and the homeowners cannot generate sufficient cash to cover increased deposits and professional fees, such as those of estate agents, surveyors and solicitors, associated with moving house.

In the Eighties, in a buoyant market, homeowners could trade their way out of trouble. That is clearly no longer the case. Much of the real damage was inflicted on homeowners and the market alike between the 1989 peak and December 1991 when the Government was forced to intervene. It was then, after a crisis meeting at the Treasury attended by lenders and officials from the Department of Social Security, that the Government agreed to make a key concession and pay mortgage-related income support payments directly to the lenders.

For their part, lenders agreed not to repossess any home where state support covered mortgage outgoings. As a further sweetener, the Government de-

clared a moratorium on the 1 per cent stamp duty on housing transactions up to a value of £250,000 until August 1992. Thereafter, the stamp duty was reactivated, albeit at a £50,000 threshold as opposed to the old £30,000 level.

Mr Coles said that the only effect of the moratorium was to cause a "bulge" in transactions around July and August. Thereafter, housing transactions fell away sharply.

In the present state of the housing market, transactions are regarded as more crucial than prices. But Inland Revenue figures published last Friday show that, at 85,000, housing transactions in April were at their lowest for that month since records began in 1977.

When lenders meet the ministers, they will be armed with an independent survey commissioned by the Department of the Environment. This shows that private mortgage insurance protection policies to cover the shortfall in state payments will not work. If the DSS is not willing to change its policy, Mr Coles says repossession will automatically rise from their present level of about 1,000 a week.

New borrowers, including those who remortgage, will have to take out mortgage protection cover. At an average monthly cost of £7 for every £100 insured, this will add greatly to the cost of supporting a mortgage to a point where it could deter prospective buyers. And thus prove Professor Woods was absolutely right.

What the industry forecasts

Abbey National: Continues to predict a modest improvement in prices of between 0.2 per cent and 4 per cent this year. The bank believes that there will be no return to the large increases of the past but that prices will continue to be supported by the lack of affordable rental properties outside London, and by a reluctance to build homes on Green Belt sites.

Halifax: At the beginning of the year, Britain's largest mortgage lender expected a "very small recovery" in 1995, but added this would be limited by lower

mortgage tax relief, lower DSS income support and possible further rate rises. At the end of March, the building society could see no recovery. But it predicts prices will start to improve in 1996, by 2-4 per cent.

UBS: Fearing the impact of the income-support proposals on the market, Rob Thomas of UBS yesterday cut his house price forecast from 6 to 3 per cent. Better times are just around the corner. Mr Thomas expects a rise of 6 per cent in 1996 and predicts that the recovery will be in "full swing" by 1997, although prices will be

rising from a very low base.

Midland Bank: Roger Bootle, chief economist, sees virtually no change in prices this year, and no overall movement in prices for the foreseeable future thereafter.

Morgan Grenfell: Began the year predicting a 1.5 per cent rise in house prices, since downgraded to 0.5 per cent. Morgan Grenfell says the market has not yet "bottomed out" and is unlikely to do so until early next year when prices will increase by 2.5 per cent. This will be followed by a

rise of 4 per cent in 1997 and 5 per cent in 1998.

Nationwide: The building society has changed its initial forecast of house price increases of up to 2.5 per cent to "little change" on the year. Phillip Williamson, the society's divisional director, says: "Given the generally fragile confidence and the threat of a future rise in interest rates, it now looks as though we may not see a sustained recovery until 1996 when stronger growth in personal incomes is expected to underpin the substantial improvement in activity."

Gates's window of opportunity is firmly closed

Eric Reguly explains why Microsoft dropped its \$2bn acquisition of Intuit

Microsoft's decision to abandon its \$2 billion purchase of Intuit, the main US publisher of personal finance software, may trigger a strategic shift by the world's top software company.

Microsoft must now realise the US Justice Department, which had sued to block the merger of Microsoft and Intuit, on anti-trust grounds, is watching its every move. The Clinton Administration has been weak in key policy areas, but anti-trust is not one of them.

Rick Rule, a former Assistant Attorney-General for anti-trust, said: "This is one of the most aggressive anti-trust Administrations in the past 15 or 20 years."

With the Justice Department becoming more aggressive, Microsoft must devote more effort to organic growth. Acquisitions that give it a big, let alone dominant, presence in certain product areas may have to be avoided to keep the peace.

This is the upshot of the failed Intuit takeover. Microsoft now has to rethink its master plan on how to become an important player in the burgeoning market for commerce software. Its first effort, it appears, will be to ramp Money, its own personal-finance programme.

Money 4, the latest version, will be launched this autumn. But success is not assured. Money is the third-ranked product of its kind on the market, and will be competing with Intuit's top-selling Quicken software.

Some analysts were surprised that Microsoft gave up. It agreed to buy Intuit in October and six months later, when the Justice Department filed a lawsuit to block the deal, the two companies insisted they were 100 per cent committed to the merger. They sought expedited hearings and a trial was set for June.

Some observers thought the department's manoeuvre smacked of revenge. In a separate anti-trust case that began four years ago, the department charged Microsoft with signing restrictive licensing agreements with personal computer makers, making it uneconomical for

them to choose rival operating systems. But the department failed to find grounds to prosecute and last year settled with Microsoft, which agreed to alter its agreements with computer makers. In February, a US district judge overturned the settlement, saying it did not go far enough. The decision is under appeal.

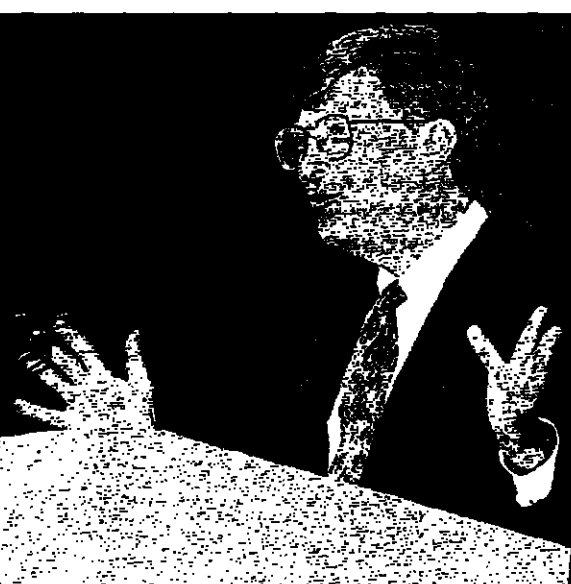
The Justice Department's efforts to block the Microsoft-Intuit merger seemed somewhat spurious in market-control terms. Intuit's Quicken has about 70 per cent of the personal-finance software market against Money's 22 per cent. Putting the two together would have put a hammerlock on the market, but Microsoft had agreed to hand over Money to Novell, another software company, if the merger went through. Actual market shares, in other words, would not have changed.

But, in the US, a company can be in violation of anti-trust rules even if its market position is not dominant. The Justice Department can challenge any takeover that substantially reduces competition. In this case, it appeared it was worried that Microsoft, as powerful and clever as it is, might turn Quicken's 70 per cent share into 90 per cent overnight.

Indeed, the department's lawsuit quoted Intuit's board being told a merger would eliminate a bloody share war. The lawsuit said that Intuit's code name for Microsoft was "Godzilla."

Microsoft may have won the case. But Bill Gates, the founder and chairman, thought the computer world was moving too fast to wait a year or so before the court gave a ruling. He said: "Progress toward realising our goals could not wait until the lawsuit was resolved. It's time for Microsoft to put this behind us and move on."

Microsoft, by abandoning the Intuit takeover, no doubt has won points with the department whose ego has been massaged by a victory without the expense and tedium of a trial. This may come in handy in the future when Microsoft's expansion strategy again raises eyebrows at the department.



Bill Gates could not wait for the lawsuit to be resolved

Bill should allow many more villages to be connected

From the Minister for Industry and Energy

Sir, The villagers of Igham in west Suffolk (Ross Tipton, May 19) should be very pleased with the provisions of the Gas Bill. It and the accompanying licences contain no less than four measures designed to make it easier for villages such as Igham to get gas.

First, the Bill allows competition in bringing gas to new areas so that companies other

than British Gas can run the pipes to the village.

Second, gas suppliers will be able to offer long-term agreements covering both laying pipes and selling gas.

Third, pipeline companies will be able to spread that cost of connection over many years through the price of gas, rather than requiring it all in advance.

The villages themselves will be free to club together to employ their own contractors to lay a pipe, and then require

British Gas to connect them.

Taken together, these measures should allow many more villages to be connected than would otherwise be the case.

Yours faithfully,
TIM EGGAR,
Minister for Industry and Energy,
Department of Trade and Industry,
Ashdown House,
123 Victoria Street,
SW1.

Total independence

From the chairman, Top Pay Research Group

Sir, Stoy Hayward's challenge to the change of auditors at the RAC, citing a possible loss-leader audit fee as a gateway to more lucrative consulting assignments, mirrors a more dangerous ethical issue in remuneration advice.

Word is that the Greenbury Committee will limit itself to recommending full disclosure

of directors' emoluments and some restrictions on notorious non-executive director networking.

I hope, however, that they will also address the issue of the consultant, if any, used by the remuneration committee for independent advice on salary rates, incentive schemes and performance assessments.

Cadbury recommended outside advisers. We suggest that it is in shareholders' interests

that advisers should also be independent of other major professional fee-earning relationships as auditors, solicitors, actuaries, pension advisers and possibly management consultants to the group or its major subsidiaries.

Yours faithfully,
PETER M. BROWN,
Chairman,
Top Pay Research Group,
Upper Ground Floor,
9 Savoy Street, WC2.

SIB changes

From Mr Martin Owen

Sir, You report (May 18) that the Chairman of the SFA, supported by the Chief Executive of Imro, favours a streamlining of supervision of the financial services industry. Within its first ten years, SIB has, under three different chairmen, developed three very different regulatory approaches. The first two were discarded before they had been tried. The third is in its infancy.

Each SRO has been the subject of merger or other major change. Huge resources have been diverted, abortive costs for firms have been high, understanding of regulation weakened. Views will always differ about regulatory structure and approach. Evolution in the light of experience will always be necessary. The costs of instability and discontinuity should always be weighed before yet another structural change is embarked upon.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN OWEN,
12 College Gardens, SE21.

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Equities rise in late trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995		1994		1993		1992		1991		1990		1989		1988		1987		1986		1985		1984		1983		1982		1981		1980		1979		1978		1977		1976		1975		1974		1973		1972		1971		1970		1969		1968		1967		1966		1965		1964		1963		1962		1961		1960		1959		1958		1957		1956		1955		1954		1953		1952		1951		1950		1949		1948		1947		1946		1945		1944		1943		1942		1941		1940		1939		1938		1937		1936		1935		1934		1933		1932		1931		1930		1929		1928		1927		1926		1925		1924		1923		1922		1921		1920		1919		1918		1917		1916		1915		1914		1913		1912		1911		1910		1909		1908		1907		1906		1905		1904		1903		1902		1901		1900		1899		1898		1897		1896		1895		1894		1893		1892		1891		1890		1889		1888		1887		1886		1885		1884		1883		1882		1881		1880		1879		1878		1877		1876		1875		1874		1873		1872		1871		1870		1869		1868		1867		1866		1865		1864		1863		1862		1861		1860		1859		1858		1857		1856		1855		1854		1853		1852		1851		1850		1849		1848		1847		1846		1845		1844		1843		1842		1841		1840		1839		1838		1837		1836		1835		1834		1833		1832		1831		1830		1829		1828		1827		1826		1825		1824		1823		1822		1821		1820		1819		1818		1817		1816		1815		1814		1813		1812		1811		1810		1809		1808		1807		1806		1805		1804		1803		1802		1801		1800		1799		1798		1797		1796		1795		1794		1793		1792		1791		1790		1789		1788		1787		1786		1785		1784		1783		1782		1781		1780		1779		1778		1777		1776		1775		1774		1773		1772		1771		1770		1769		1768		1767		1766		1765		1764		1763		1762		1761		1760		1759		1758		1757		1756		1755		1754		1753		1752		1751		1750		1749		1748		1747		1746		1745		1744		1743		1742		1741		1740		1739		1738		1737		1736		1735		1734		1733		1732		1731		1730		1729		1728		1727		1726		1725		1724		1723		1722		1721		1720		1719		1718		1717		1716		1715		1714		1713		1712		1711		1710		1709		1708		1707		1706		1705		1704		1703		1702		1701		1700		1699		1698		1697		1696		1695		1694		1693		1692		1691		1690		1689		1688		1687		1686		1685		1684		1683		1682		1681		1680		1679		1678		1677		1676		1675		1674		1673		1672		1671		1670		1669		1668		1667		1666		1665		1664		1663		1662		1661		1660		1659		1658		1657		1656		1655		1654		1653		1652		1651		1650		1649		1648		1647		1646		1645		1644		1643		1642		1641		1640		1639		1638		1637		1636		1635		1634		1633		1632		1631		1630		1629		1628		1627		1626		1625		1624		1623		1622		1621		1620		1619		1618		1617		1616		1615		1614		1613		1612		1611		1610		1609		1608		1607		1606		1605		1604		1603		1602		1601		1600		1599		1598		1597		1596		1595		1594		1593		1592		1591		1590		1589		1588		1587		1586		1585		1584		1583		1582		1581		1580		1579		1578		1577		1576		1575		1574		1573		1572		1571		1570		1569		1568		1567		1566		1565		1564		1563		1562		1561		1560		1559		1558		1557		1556		1555		1554		1553		1552		1551		1550		1549		1548		1547		1546		1545		1544		1543		1542		1541		1540		1539		1538		1537		1536		1535		1534		1533		1532		1531		1530		1529		1528		1527		1526		1525		1524		1523		1522		1521		1520		1519		1518		1517		1516		1515		1514		1513		1512		1511		1510		1509		1508		1507		1506		1505		1504		1503		1502		1501		1500		1499		1498		1497		1496		1495		1494		1493		1492		1491		1490		1489		1488		1487		1486		1485		1484		1483		1482		1481		1480		1479		1478		1477		1476		1475		1474		1473		1472		1471		1470		1469		1468		1467		1466		1465		1464		1463		1462		1461		1460		1459		1458		1457		1456		1455		1454		1453		1452		1451		1450		1449		1448		1447		1446		1445		1444		1443		1442		1441		1440		1439		1438		1437		1436		1435		1434		1433		1432		1431		1430		1429		1428		1427		1426		1425		1424		1423		1422		1421		1420		1419		1418		1417		1416		1415		1414		1413		1412		1411		1410		1409		1408		1407		1406		1405		1404		1403		1402		1401		1400		1399		1398		1397		1396		1395		1394		1393		1392		1391		1390		1389		1388		1387		1386		1385		1384		1383		1382		1381		1380		1379		1378		1377		1376		1375		1374		1373		1372		1371		1370		1369		1368		1367		1366		1365		1364		1363		1362		1361		1360		1359		1358		1357		1356		1355		1354		1353		1352		1351		1350		1349		1348		1347		1346		1345		1344		1343		1342		1341		1340		1339		1338		1337		1336		1335		1334		1333		1332		1331		1330		1329		1328		1327		1326		1325		1324		1323		1322		1321		1320		1319		1318		1317		1316		1315		1314		1313		1312		1311		1310		1309		1308		1307		1306		1305		1304		1303		1302		1301		1300		1299		1298		1297		1296		1295		1294		1293		1292		1291		1290		1289		1288		1287		1286		1285		1284		1283		1282		1281		1280		1279		1278		1277		1276		1275		1274		1273		1272		1271		1270		1269		1268		1267		1266		1265		1264		1263		1262		1261		1260		1259		1258		1257		1256		1255		1254		1253		1252		1251		1250		1249		1248		1247		1246		1245		1244		1243		1242		1241		1240		1239		1238		1237		1236		1235		1234		1233		1232		1231		1230		1229		1228		1227		1226		1225		1224		1223		1222		1221		1220		1219		1218		1217		1216		1215		1214		1213		1212		1211		1210		1209		1208		1207		1206		1205		1204		1203		1202		1201		1200		1199		1198		1197		1196		1195		1194		1193		1192		1191		1190		1189		1188		1187		1186		1185		1184		1183		1182		1181		1180		1179		1178		1177		1176		1175		1174		1173		1172		1171		1170		1169		1168		1167		1166		1165		1164		1163		11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Surge in start-ups of small firms

By Rodney Hobson

THE number of small business start-ups is now higher than at any time since the late 1980s, according to Barclays Bank's latest *Small Business Bulletin*.

Barclays also reports that 83 per cent of new business owners are optimistic that they will achieve higher levels of business within the next 12 months and 65 per cent expect to take on more staff by the end of next year. The figures confirm the economic recovery noted in National Westminster Bank's quarterly bulletin last week.

Barclays says more than 122,000 businesses started in the first quarter of 1995, 30 per cent more than during the low point of the recession in 1991-92 and 7 per cent more than in the same period last year.

About 105,000 businesses shut between January and March this year, a 2 per cent fall from a year earlier. Barclays says the fall in closures is slowing, but that is not necessarily a bad sign. Many businesses close in an orderly way for personal reasons, or to realise assets. Insolvencies now count for fewer than one in ten closures.

The figures show the number of businesses rising by 17,000 to 2.63 million, 2 per cent higher than a year ago. Regionally, the North, Yorkshire and the Midlands recorded the highest level of start-ups during the first quarter of 1995.

David Lavarack, the bank's small business services director, says: "Their success follows a rise

in demand for exports that has fuelled the growth of the region's manufacturing bases."

East Anglia's economy continued to be one of the fastest growing, but Wales and the North West experienced a fall in the number of new businesses. There were 5,800 start-ups in Wales, 16 per cent below the level in the first quarter of last year. Scotland saw 1,900 start-ups, a 4 per cent increase. The figures do not include Northern Ireland.

Mr Lavarack adds: "Although they are still cautious following the experience of the recession, potential business owners are becoming more confident about opportunities in the market-place. We expect start-ups to continue to rise moderately and the level of closures to remain constant, leading to a more stable and mature stock of small businesses capable of creating a firm foundation for economic growth."



Out of the corporate rut

James Kitchenham
on an independent
partnership that
took on the big
firms and won

Setting up your own business is the dream of many people in a corporate rut, but it takes either the sudden jolt of redundancy or the gradual wearing down by increasingly worsening conditions at work to make most people find the courage to do it.

In the case of Kevin Parish and Hilary Whitley, it was the latter that caused them in the late autumn of 1993 seriously to consider leaving their corporate-owned estate agency in Diss, Norfolk, to start their own business.

"When the old, family-owned firm we worked for was taken over by a large insurance company, at first things continued much as before," said Mr Parish.

"But when the recession began to bite, the company brought in 'performance management' which was supposed to create higher productivity, but the effect was to destroy team spirit. You succeeded at someone else's expense and it became divisive.

"The programme created so much paperwork that I called it 'paralysis by analysis'. In this business, you need to adapt to local



Sign of the times: Hilary Whitley and Kevin Parish at Diss

conditions and you just couldn't run the office efficiently if you followed the strictures laid down by the headquarters office. I would spend the whole of Monday morning checking last week's targets against business done and then make targets for the current week, when the whole office should have

been on the telephone following up the weekend's inquiries. It was totally dead time."

Mrs Whitley said: "We both felt that there was a demand locally for a small, friendly, independent firm of estate agents that could provide a caring service at a time when all the local firms were being taken over

by faceless corporations." When they took the decision to go ahead, they felt it was right to stay in Diss, as of their 33 years' joint experience in the business, much of it had been in that locality and local knowledge is a huge asset in the business of selling houses.

After forming a partnership, they used a solicitor to seek a premises in the town, but this was unsuccessful. "Walking round the town we found a large shop that looked suitable for dividing into two units, so we approached the owner, who agreed to split it," said Mr Parish.

Both partners put in £20,000 from their savings and so were not dependent on bank financing. But they produced a business plan to see how their budget would run through the first year of trading. As soon as they had signed their lease, they resigned and within four weeks had done promotional work and opened Whitley Parish. Three weeks later they were joined by a part-time secretary/negotiator.

Their first property was sold in a fortnight and after six weeks they had 100 on their books. By their second month of trading, they had sold 19 properties and after their first full year had completed just over 200 sales.

By that time they were employing five full and part-time negotiators and proof of their hunch that an independent could give corporate firms a run for their money came in the fact that three of the local corporate-owned firms closed their doors for the last time.

BRIEFINGS

An extension has been granted for business owners to make substantial contributions to small self-administered pension schemes. The generous funding limits were scheduled to be abolished by the Inland Revenue at the end of April, but Grant Thornton, a leading firm of chartered accountants, expects the extension to last until October. Currently, contributions can be equal to and, in some cases, exceed, a director's salary. The contribution level could be reduced to 39 per cent of earnings, Grant Thornton believes.

Legal & General, the insurance group, has reprinted its free guide to protecting premises because of high demand from the business community. The booklet covers break-ins, fire, flood and general weather damage. Copies from: 0171-614 2844.

Solotec, the training and enterprise council that covers south London, is holding a series of subsidised one-day workshops in June and July. Businesses employing up to 25 people in the boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, Croydon and Sutton are eligible to take part. A session on performing under pressure will be led by Helen Sharman, the first woman astronaut. Other speakers include Chris Moss, who launched Orange, the mobile telephone network, and David Cormack, head of training and development at Shell International. The cost is £75 a session.

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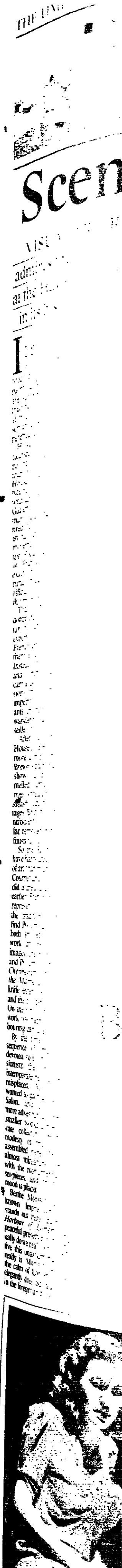
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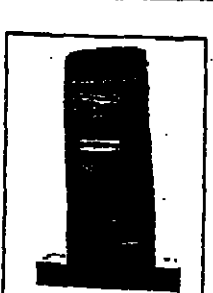
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■ VISUAL ART 1

The Impressionists v The Salon: one of the great battles in the history of painting is replayed at the Hayward



■ VISUAL ART 2

I must go down to the seas again: Will Maclean's nautical set of Voyages goes on show in Cork Street



■ VISUAL ART 3

Face of the observant emigré: the NPG displays György Gordon's portraits and self-portraits



■ THEATRE

The decadent world of Tennessee Williams's *Vieux Carré*, given strong treatment in Nottingham

Scenes from a quiet revolution

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork
admires the way that the new show at the Hayward puts Impressionism in its historical and social context

If you believe the myth-makers, Impressionism burst into life with red-hot fervour. Rejecting the tired conventions of Salon painting, Monet and his allies are supposed to have forged their revolution with a glance at tradition, while their conservative foes damned them as heretical charlatans.

However attractive such clear-cut notions may be, they belong to comic-books rather than history. And now John House of the Courtauld Institute has set the record straight with an admirable Hayward Gallery exhibition. Rather than selecting yet another tired old survey of Impressionist favourites, he places the movement in its broader context. Focusing on "Landscapes of France", House reveals exactly how they related to the rural images shown at the official Paris Salons during this momentous period.

That is why the first room is dominated by names unfamiliar to anyone apart from experts in late 19th-century French art. The Impressionists themselves are hard to find. Instead, most of these large and often highly finished canvases offer unruffled visions of a countryside oddly impervious to change. Peasants in rustic costumes still wander towards the bare Mar-seilles hills.

After a while, though, House's selection discloses a more complex picture. Emile Breton's painting of *A Tempest* shows a dark, storm-pummeled terrain, where bent trees threaten to break and slash against solitary cottages. Breton's handling of the turbulent clouds has a vigour far removed from the smooth finish favoured elsewhere.

So the Salon turns out to have harboured a wider range of art than might be supposed. Courbet and Millet, who both did a great deal to transform earlier French painting, are represented here. And, among the traditional exhibits, we find Pissarro and Sisley, who both showed their youthful work at the Salon. Their images are more simplified, and Pissarro's superb view of *Chennervieu, on the Banks of the Marne* uses the palette-knife extensively on the sky and the cloud-reflecting water. On the whole, however, their work sits happily with neighbouring canvases.

By the time we enter the sequence of smaller rooms devoted solely to the Impressionists, the whole idea of impenetrable revolution seems misplaced. Most of them wanted to gain acclaim at the Salon, and confined their more adventurous impulses to smaller works aimed at private collectors. Hence the modesty of the landscapes assembled here. They seem almost miniature compared with the monumental Salon set-pieces, and their overall mood is placid.

Berthe Morisot, a lesser-known Impressionist who stands out here, paints *The Harbour of Lorient* as a peaceful preserve. Only gradually do we realise how deceptive this unassuming picture really is. Morisot juxtaposes the calm of Lorient with an elegantly dressed lady, sitting in the foreground like a para-

gon of Paris fashion. She seems to have escaped from the metropolis for a day, perhaps on the railway which was rapidly making rural France more accessible for city-dwellers.

Monet makes the point more overtly. In one marvelous canvas, he devotes most of the picture-space to a sunlit park where figures drift under parasols. But the pastoral mood is challenged by a distant train. Smoke pours into the formerly unpolluted sky, and each crammed carriage is ready to unleash its passengers on the unsuspecting countryside.

Even so, there is nothing polemical about Monet's picture. The train does not threaten the landscape, and in other paintings he savours the inviolate pleasures of the rural scene. *The Sheltered Path* is an irresistible image. A single figure wanders out into a locale pulsating with light and heat. By 1873, Monet had developed the broken touch and darting, heightened colour-play which enabled him to convey the shimmering richness of the places he favoured. Another artist might have made the sole wanderer a melancholy presence, but Monet sees him as an embodiment of one man's ability to revel in a quiet rapport with the natural world.

The Impressionists, then, did not depart very radically from the Salon's affirmation of rural pleasures. But their handling of paint, so alive to seasonal flux and intoxicating outdoor freshness, is a tonic after the heaviness of Salon-approved art. So is their open response to even the most everyday subject. Nothing, it seems, was too humble for the Impressionists' avid attention.

Pissarro pauses by the River Oise at Pontoise, showing how factories had just sprung up on its formerly pristine banks. Here *Chalon et Clé* distilled sugar beet into industrial and commercial alcohol, using tall chimneys to push ominously dark smoke into an otherwise luminous sky. Pissarro, more politically engaged than most of his friends, leaves no doubt about the transformation of this once-verdant scene.

But most Impressionist landscapes avoided such disruptive subjects. Even when they turned their attention to snow scenes, thoughts of desolation never invaded the mood of winter enchantment. The whiteness that Monet discovered near his home in the town of Argenteuil becomes a source of wonder. The silhouetted pedestrians, cosseted by their umbrellas, walk through a scene made magical by the artist's deft orchestration of blue, pink and orange. Defined with crisp economy, which suggests how indebted Monet was to Japanese prints, the snow-scene intensifies the purifying force of the Impressionist vision.

The Salon grew more intolerant during the 1870s, in a political climate affected by the trauma of the Paris Commune. So the Impressionists were obliged to stiffen their resistance to conservatism and band together, organising group shows which quickly



"A single figure wanders out into a locale pulsating with light and heat": detail from *The Sheltered Path* (1873), by the influential Claude Monet

John Russell Taylor on György Gordon's grim and glorious self-portraits

The artist faces up to a life of change

Given that very few visitors to the show devoted to György Gordon at the National Portrait Gallery will have, as he is the first to admit, the faintest idea of who he is, it is remarkable how rapidly they will feel that they know him like an old friend.

The secret, of course, is a tendency to regular self-portraiture. From the earliest self-portrait drawing in the show, dating from 1960, to the latest paintings, from 1993, the face is consistent and unmistakable. At the beginning Gordon suggests a saint out of El Greco, latterly he looks more like an amiable magician. Certainly there is relatively little of sweetness and light at any point. But then, with a history like Gordon's, would one expect it?

Gordon has just turned 70. For the past 39 years he has lived and worked in England. A little elementary arithmetic will disclose that he settled here in 1956, the year of the abortive Hungarian revolution. Before that, Gordon had studied at the Budapest Academy of Fine Arts, painted and drawn in a very conservative manner, and had his diploma picture bought by the state. But overnight everything changed. Early in 1956 his mother died, and the first picture in the show is an intense and expressionistic head study of her, painted in the mortuary as the revolution was raging outside.

Speaking no English, Gordon arrived in Britain with his six-year-old daughter and,



Dark visions from an often turbulent life: a detail from György Gordon's *Self-portrait in Magnifying Mirror*

unsurprisingly, was unable to work for four years, only beginning to paint seriously again once he had settled in Wakefield to teach. The work that then came was quite different from what had gone before: dark-toned, turbulent and violently expressive. Some of the images, like *Refugees of 1964* and *Crawling Wounded Torso* of 1969, suggest Soutine, so it is no surprise that in 1968 Gordon painted an *Imaginary Portrait* of Soutine. At that time he had just seen a big Soutine retrospective — but how was he so familiar with Soutine years earlier? "Entirely through reproductions," he says. "But I had always loved what I had seen that way."

Surely the painting of his mother in the mortuary is expressionistic in a similar fashion? "I suppose so; but I think that is just how it turned out under the pressure of my emotions at the time," he says. "The same, really, with the earlier English paintings: it was the only way I could work when all the damned-up emotions of the previous years just had to be expressed. I think the emotion always comes first, and the style somehow takes care of itself."

In the mid-1970s came a considerable stylistic change. Instead of the heavily applied, tortured pigment and the very dark colours, we encounter pearly greys, smoothly rounded shapes, and light instead of dark. In this phase one becomes more conscious, if anything, that Gordon is a painter who happens frequently to

paint people, rather than a portrait painter in the normal sense of the term. Gordon says he has no idea how he would handle a formal portrait commission: "I think it would kill the inspiration."

Many of the most beautiful paintings are of interiors — sparsely inhabited at the NPG, sometimes totally unoccupied and painted for their own sake in the companion show at the Hart Gallery. For all their austerity, the pictures are in fact very sensuous. There is hardly ever a bold colour, but when one does occur, as in *At the Table* (1989), the effect of the tiny vase of flowers is dazzling.

What next? "I have done no painting for the last 18 months, while recovering from a heart attack," Gordon says. "I think I need this kind of punctuation. It helps me to see what I want to do. Now I'm ready to do it."

● György Gordon's Portraits and Figurative Work 1956-1993 are at the National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055) until June 25

□ THOUGH Cathy Fenwick was not born until decades after the Berlin of Sally Bowles and Christopher Isherwood, the show of her recent paintings and drawings at East West Gallery suggests she would have found herself very much at home there. Still, she seems to be very much at home also in the London of today, delicious or depressing in its decadence. When she paints the strange old ladies with the painted red masks or the ravaged drinkers or the tarts and the ruts, there is certainly no disapproval implied, nor yet a clear endorsement.

East West Gallery, 8 Blenheim Crescent, W1 (0171-229 7981) until June 3

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR



Amanda Hillwood as the woman sucked into the sexually decadent world of *Vieux Carré* in Nottingham

THEATRE: A revival of a distinctly weird play by Tennessee Williams

Vacancies in hell's boarding house

THIS late play by Tennessee Williams received its British premiere at Nottingham in 1978. Sexually provocative and boldly autobiographical, it is a vision of loneliness and dependency in a dilapidated boarding house in New Orleans's Old Quarter. Steven Pimlott's resurrection of the piece, shunning a naturalistic setting, concentrates on *Vieux Carré* as a memory-cum-dream-play.

As the anonymous Writer (Jonathan Cullen) takes us back to the Thirties and 722, Toulouse Street (an address where Williams actually lived), we find ourselves in an impressionistic inner world. Seen initially through misty gauze, the kitchen of the cluttered old landlady Mrs Wire and the bedrooms of the sexually ensnared lodgers blur. Within a darkly charmed circle, vaguely-remembered wrought-iron beds, a stove and a battered sofa shift in uncertain relation to each other between episodic scenes. The place is a nightmare: batty, witchy

Vieux Carré
Nottingham Playhouse

Mrs Wire's hellhole. The house is a cylinder of pitch-black air illuminated by beams of white light. A plastic sheet seals off the space at the rear, glistening as if with the rain outside.

Both play and playing have their failings. There are purple patches in the Writer's commentary on his past and the acute poverty of the lodgers could be pushed. True, the characters cover up their desperate states, but it is hard to believe that the "crones", Miss Carrie and Mary Maude, dressed up in chiffon like cockatoos, have been dredging the garbage for food.

The sense of critical exhaustion is also underplayed, the absence of steps to upper storeys taking physical labour out of the set. Nurse, Mrs Wire's old black

maid, practically sprints in to announce her retirement. Pat Bowie is winning in the part, singing the blues between scenes, but is surely not ancient enough.

Perhaps this falling-down household could be more disturbingly shaky. However, Cullen is quietly excellent as the young Writer, a grown man with a trace of the grief-stricken child and touches of fledgling camp. Michael Fitzgerald is splendid as the decadent TB-ridden homosexual painter who seduces him, combining care with grotesque predatoriness, absurd mattress manoeuvres with erotic intensity. Attractive to them both, Andrew Woodall is also outstanding as the drug-bearded Tye, animal-like yet lovingly tender with Jane (Amanda Hillwood not yet his match), the better-class young woman who is sexually hooked on him. Strong stuff.

KATE BASSETT

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LAW

● KEEP ON RUNNING 40
● LAW REPORT 41

Edward Fennell takes a sporting look at the legal profession

Stephen Townley, the name partner of London's leading sports law firm, is in South Africa this week for the Rugby World Cup. Is it business or pleasure? Like most sports lawyers, Mr Townley would say business is pleasure because, although the Corinthian spirit may have died among players, it still thrives among sports lawyers. The very people whom most supporters would accuse of being the "suits" responsible for commercialising the game often retain a touching idealism about the moral and social role of sport.

Catherine Bond, who leads the sports team at Eversheds Jacques & Lewis, is a cricket enthusiast and fan of Coventry City — "the best team in the world", she says. François de Zedtwitz, of Townleys, is devoted to sport and declares that he could practise no other form of law. Mel Stein, of Finers, and Paul Gascoigne's lawyer since his days at Tottenham Hotspur, turns out for Sunday morning games in the park. Barry Weatherill, of Wedlake Bell, has been a sports enthusiast all his life. And the in-house legal team at the International Marketing Group (IMG), which represents many sports bodies as well as individual sports stars, is made up of Oxford Blues who trained with leading City practices before opting to follow their passion.

Away from the sentiment, however, the profile, popularity and profitability of sport have combined to create increasingly complex legal issues. "Britain may have played a formative role 100 years ago in the development of sporting regulatory bodies," Mr Townley says, "but nowadays it is commercial, not administrative, pressures that drive sport, which is why commercial lawyers are most in demand."

Another prime force in sport is broadcasting. Many sports specialists spend most of their time in securing the best deals for their clients, the governing body.

"The sport business is largely concerned with selling intangible rights," says Brian Clark, former managing partner at Nabarro Nathanson, and now IMG's director of European legal affairs. "Our job is to be the production line within the company. We produce the legal rights which are then sold."

Often, these deals can be many-sided. Last Saturday's TV coverage of the FA Cup Final, for example, was the result of teamwork between lawyers from Memory Crystal, Freshfields, as well as the IMG lawyers, who focused on the broadcasting issues. The venue, the Football Associ-



Catherine Bond: a cricket and football supporter, her legal team specialises in sport

Play up, play on — and win

ation, the sponsors and the broadcasters all had to be involved.

Is this a matter of lawyer overload? If a young sport is to grow, it needs financial backing. That means television coverage, which boosts participation, as well as improving the chances of commercial sponsorship, but will inevitably involve legal complications.

Despite the rise of sports lawyers, however, there is no such thing as sports law. Instead, a sports practice will simply encapsulate in miniature virtually all forms of mainstream law — from private client, personal injury and criminal through to stan-

dard commercial transactions — and put them in a sporting context.

Edward Grayson, of the chambers of Edmund Lawson, QC, at 4 Paper Buildings, Temple, is widely regarded as the doyen of the Bar in sports matters. With three books behind him, including the authoritative *Sports and the Law* (published by Butterworths), he has an almost unrivalled claim to sporting expertise.

He is doubtful, however, whether one should use the term "sports law" at all. Rather, it is the other way round. He says: "Sports people must realise that the jurisdiction of the law does not end at the touching."

Mr Grayson is finding that an increasing number of criminal and personal injury cases are coming to him straight from the sports field.

"I recently won £150,000 for a third-team rugby player who lost an eye in a line-out," he says. "The victim did not know who had injured him and the police could not find out. We ended up at the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board."

the expert to make the decision; and only 8 per cent wanted a "full trial in court".

Right choice
SAUL Lehtreund, a human rights executive in London's Simons Muirhead & Burton, has been awarded the International Bar Association's Bernard Simons Memorial Award for his work in Caribbean death row cases.

John Clitheroe, of Kingsley Napley, was one of the judges. "It may seem strange that the first recipient is a member of Bernie's old set," he says. "But of all the candidates from around the world, he was outstanding."

● A seminar on *The Hague War Crimes Tribunal* takes place at the Inns of Court School of Law, on Thursday at 6.30pm, organised by the Bar human rights committee. Allan Heyman, QC, and Geoffrey Robertson, QC, are due to speak.

Oxbridge judges
OXFORD and Cambridge retain their grip on the judiciary. Figures from the Lord Chancellor's Department show that 80 per cent of Lords of Appeal, heads of division, Lords Justices of Appeal and High Court judges were educated at the two universities. More than 50 per cent of middle-ranking circuit judges went there, too.

SCRIVENOR

STUART & FRANCIS

Me! Stein: Gazza's lawyer and a Sunday morning footballer



Get your own lawyer

THE Automobile Association is dropping its free representation service from April 1996. Demand, usually for pleas in mitigation for drink-driving and speeding offences, has dropped from 30,000 cases in 1990 to 4,500 today. The AA is replacing automatic entitlement to a lawyer with a fighting fund of £100,000 for deserving cases.

Rayner Peck, an AA official, says a survey of members showed that "the vast majority did not want their subscription money used to support motorists who were clearly guilty of motorway offences that were antisocial or irresponsible".

Will help

SEVEN solicitors' firms have raised £5,000 for Action Research, the medical charity, by writing clients' wills free in return for a donation. Action Research organisers are now calling on other law practices, preferably where they know a solicitor personally, with the aim of bringing one firm in every British county into the scheme.

Solicitors in Devon, Bristol, Sussex, Birmingham, Leeds, Edinburgh and Glasgow are participating. Recommended



Judges: Oxbridge origins

donations are £35 a will and £50 for a double — below the usual rates.

Video court

ADDICTS of televised trials from America may get a homegrown trial as good as any sport. The Maxwell trials will soon be captured on CD-Rom and on video. The trial of the Maxwell brothers starts on May 31, and will employ the latest courtroom

technology, supplied by Legal Technologies Inc and appropriately named "Showcase".

The 15,000-page trial bundle has been scanned on to two CD-Rom optical discs and the witnesses will be videoed. All the information will be retrievable on 16 network screens in court.

Out of court

FEWER than one in ten people want to settle their disputes in court, according to a new survey published last week. The survey, conducted by BBC's *Law in Action* and the National Consumer Council, found that 75 per cent of people thought the system too slow, complex, too easy to twist and too daunting. They would prefer alternative ways of resolving their differences.

Only 13 per cent found it easy to understand and one in four agreed it was well run and usually "gets it right".

The survey found that far from wanting more court services, more than half the people questioned would prefer to "sit around a table with an independent expert who helps them to reach an agreement between themselves". Another 23 per cent wanted

the expert to make the decision; and only 8 per cent wanted a "full trial in court".

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SCRIVENOR

STUART & FRANCIS

A fair hearing for pupil barristers

Trainee barristers are required to undergo 12 months of pupillage being instructed by a more senior barrister in the arts of advocacy, pleading, and coping with difficult solicitors, clients and judges. During the second six months, pupils may begin to take cases in their own right.

Mr Pickwick was told "what fine places of slow torture" the waiting — the hope — the disappointment — the fear — the misery — the poverty. If they survive the experience, pupils will be considered for a seat in chambers, and a chance to make their own mistakes, and earn a living.

Pupillage remains an inefficient means of apprenticeship, especially when busy pupil-masters rarely have the time, even if they have the ability, to provide competent tuition to those in their charge. In some chambers, little has changed since the middle of the 19th century when James Stephen (later a distinguished criminal law authority) was the pupil of the leading junior on the Midland Circuit, "but on the distinct understanding that he was to receive no instruction from his tutor".

Last week, proposals for the first clearing-house scheme for students seeking pupillages at the Bar were published. They have been produced by a Bar Council steering group, set up in February. It was charged with developing proposals for a voluntary scheme of co-operation between chambers. The proposals deserve the support of all members of the Bar.

Whatever the merits and defects of pupillage, so long as it remains the system for training barristers the Bar has a duty to operate efficient and fair procedures for choosing who may be allowed through this door into the profession. The rights and responsibilities of the Bar as the provider of important legal services to the community create a strong public interest in the way we select between the large numbers of aspiring barristers.

Students may complain, though rarely nowadays with justification, that the criteria for selection in some chambers are unfair because success depends on whom you know rather than what you know. More alarming allegations of abuse of power, though without much substantiating evidence, were made earlier this month by Barbara Hewson, the chairwoman of the Association of Women Barristers, who suggested that "a number of students were promised pupillages in return for sexual favours".

But the main cause of student dissatisfaction with the existing regime for pupillage allocation is a more prosaic concern about the absence of any coherent system for dealing

with applications. There are no common procedures or common timetables for applications to chambers. A student must apply separately to each chambers in which he or she has an interest. The young lawyer may be told by one chambers that an application is too early, by another that an application is too late. Chambers may be unsure whether to offer a pupillage because an application may come later from a more promising candidate. A student to whom an offer is made may be concerned that a better rival offer may come along. All of this is bewildering and stressful for students, inefficient for barristers, and incompatible with any sensible allocation of scarce and valuable resources.

The steering group suggests a voluntary scheme which will mirror the university admissions and clearing-house scheme. There would be a single application form, a uniform timetable for pupillage applications, interviews and offers; the first round of selection would be followed by a pool system for candidates unsuccessful in the first round; a limit would be placed on the number of chambers to which students could apply; a central office would administer the scheme. Interviewing and selection criteria would be unaffected, and would remain a matter for each set of chambers, but offers to candidates would be made at the same time. Students would have to decide which offer to accept and which to reject.

By introducing a standard procedure, the proposed scheme would assist the student to make an application which is most likely to receive the consideration which his or her merits and interests deserve. The scheme would also reduce the burden of administration on busy barristers, and help chambers to make informed choices between candidates.

This voluntary scheme will fail if some chambers remain aloof in the selfish belief that they can gain an advantage over their rivals by seeking to make later, and better, offers to the best candidates. All barristers' chambers should now indicate that although they may wish to amend the details of the proposal, they support the principle.

As the consultative paper persuasively contends, if Oxford and Cambridge colleges can join together to operate an efficient selection procedure without diminishing their individual merits, barristers' chambers have nothing to fear. It will remain true that many are called to the Bar, but few are chosen for pupillages. However, the worst aspects of the process would cease to resemble the National Lottery.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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Legal aid paying for work already done

Property transfer avoids inheritance tax

Regina v Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court, Ex parte Son & Co (a firm)
Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Curran
[Judgment May 17]

Where a defendant in a magistrates' court made an application for legal aid under the Legal Aid in Criminal and Care Proceedings (General) Regulations (SI 344 No 189) and failed to furnish the court with supporting documentary evidence prior to the single hearing at which criminal proceedings were disposed of, an order could be made unconditionally and correctly dated once that supporting evidence was provided. Regulation 44(7) could then be invoked to cover the work earlier undertaken by his solicitor.

There was no similar provision in the regulations with regard to the Crown Court even though it had both a first instance and appellate jurisdiction and it was to be hoped that thought would be given to the lacuna in the legislation when amendments were next considered.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in a reserved judgment when allowing an application for judicial review by Son & Co, solicitors, of the refusal by the clerk to Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court on January 21, 1994 to make a legal aid order in favour of their client, Milind Embarec, to cover their representation of him in criminal proceedings on January 5, 1994.

Mr Embarec had appeared in person before the justices on November 24, 1993 on a charge of criminal damage. He pleaded not guilty and the justices found the case suitable for legal aid.

On January 5, 1994 Mr Embarec requested the firm to represent him that same day at the summary trial. A solicitor attended and represented Mr Embarec who was convicted, conditionally discharged and ordered to pay a contribution to the prosecution costs.

That same day an application for a legal aid order was made under regulations 11 and 23. The requisite forms 1 and 5 were duly completed and lodged with the justices' clerk. Mr Embarec did not, however, have with him the

supporting documentary evidence required by regulation 23(1). He provided it to the solicitors who on January 18, sent it to the court requesting the certificate.

The justices' clerk replied that an order could not be made until a complete statement of means had been considered. In the present case he said the information was received after the case had been completed, too late for an effective order to be made.

Mr Hugh Tomlinson for Son & Co, the justices' clerk did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the justices' position had been clarified by an affidavit sworn on September 6, 1994 by Mr Gooch, senior clerk, apparently following advice and assistance from the Treasury Solicitor's Department.

His Lordship regretted that neither Mr Gooch, nor the Treasury Solicitor's Department, nor the Lord Chancellor's Department was represented although they were served and the latter encouraged by the Crown Office to do so, as the case was one of some difficulty and the decision would inevitably be of general importance.

Mr Gooch deposed that the proceedings in question were concluded on January 5 and therefore it was inappropriate to make a legal aid order on January 19. "Legal aid orders cannot be backdated or have a retrospective effect. Legal aid orders take effect from the date the order is made."

He further drew attention to the fact that "if a legal aid application is made after the conclusion of proceedings and the clerk produces evidence in support of the view that the defendant in question should pay a contribution, there is... no provision for a court to order that contribution should be made. No contribution could be made by the court in such a situation as the contribution period expires on the conclusion of the case."

Mr Tomlinson contended that it would be most unfortunate if the clerk's stated view were correct. Not infrequently a defendant failed to furnish the court with supporting documentary evidence prior to the single hearing at which

criminal proceedings were disposed of.

In such cases the solicitor representing the defendant at the hearing could not be remunerated under the legal aid scheme. The inevitable result would be that the hearing would have to go off to a later date to give time for a legal aid order to be made in advance. That would be inconvenient and inimical to justice.

Mr Tomlinson submitted that there were three different ways in which the regulations could be construed and applied so as to avoid that result.

First, by delaying the making of a legal aid order until the supporting documentary evidence had been provided and then backdating it so as to cover the work earlier undertaken.

Second, the order could be made as soon as forms 1 and 5 were submitted, the order however being made conditional on the supporting documentary evidence thereafter being provided.

Third, the order could be made unconditionally and correctly dated once the supporting documentary evidence was provided, regulation 44(7) then being invoked to cover the work earlier undertaken.

1 The backdating argument
That argument was expressly left open to the court in *Welch v Redbridge Justices* (1984) 148 JP 474. It was, however, later rejected by Mr Justice May in *R v North Staffordshire Justices, Ex parte O'Hara* (unreported December 7, 1993).

His Lordship agreed with the conclusion that there was no power for a justices' clerk to backdate the effective date of a legal aid order earlier than the date on which the order was made.

It was necessarily implicit in regulation 44(7) that representation or advice given before an order was made could only be covered in the particular circumstances then specified and not by the expedient of backdating the order.

2 The conditional order argument
Mr Tomlinson pointed out that when regulation 23 was amended, by regulation 5 of the Legal Aid in Criminal and Care Proceedings

(General) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations (SI 1993 No 1895) to require the statement of means to be accompanied by supporting documentary evidence, no amendment was made to regulation 11(3) to include reference there to supporting documentary evidence.

It followed that regulation 11 imposed no bar on the making of a legal aid order in advance of the supporting documentary evidence. The clerk was merely required to consider the statement of means he could then make the order conditional. A number of magistrates' courts took that view.

His Lordship found difficulty with that approach. It seemed implicit in regulation 11(3) that the court or clerk was required to consider that statement of means as was described in regulation 23, namely one accompanied at that moment by supporting documentary evidence.

3 The regulation 44(7) argument
The argument was not available in *O'Hara*. The regulation did not of course state whether or not an order could be made after the final conclusion of proceedings simply so as to include within its scope work earlier undertaken. Mr Tomlinson drew attention to regulation 29(1) and (4) relating to the period for which contributions were to be made.

He recognised that if for all purposes legal aid orders ceased to be in force upon the final conclusion of the proceedings, then that of itself might be thought to preclude an order being made after such final conclusion.

His Lordship concluded that good sense required the regulation 29(1)(a) definition to be confined in its application to regulation 29(1). So construed, an order could indeed be made after the proceedings had concluded, and not only so as to allow earlier representation or advice to be deemed given under the order, provided always that the three preconditions set out in regulation 44(7) were satisfied.

It was true that in that regulation the justices were required to be satisfied that the regulations allowed the interests of justice to be served, avoided the absurd consequences that flowed from the clerk's view of the law, and at the same time protected the fund against the possibility of

paying legal aid in circumstances where the supporting documentary evidence was never provided, a possibility implicit in the conditional order argument.

One of the three preconditions in regulation 44(7) was that there was no undue delay. It was difficult to imagine that where an order was sought after the final conclusion of proceedings, that condition would be met unless the application had been made before or contemporaneously with the work undertaken.

In the present case it was. His Lordship also noted that the scheme could operate so as to defeat or at any rate severely circumscribe the possibility of recovering contributions. The latter the application for legal aid was made, the less scope there was to recover contributions.

Had Mr Embarec been able to produce his supporting documentary evidence on the day of the hearing, it could hardly be denied that a legal aid order would have been made although no contribution could have been recovered from him because of the seven-day rule under regulation 29(1).

It followed that, in his Lordship's judgment, the law should be that a legal aid order should be made as soon as the solicitor is paid under regulation 44(7) for the work that they did.

Had that been open to payment not been open, his Lordship might have reached a different conclusion on the conditional order argument, less satisfactory although that was.

His Lordship made a final comment. Although the court's decision would solve the problem in *Embarec*, the clerk could, although regulation 23(6) ensured, difficulty could arise in proceedings in the Court of Appeal, there were no provisions equivalent to either regulation 22(6) or regulation 44(7) with regard to the Crown Court even though that court had both a first instance and appellate jurisdiction.

That appeared to be a lacuna in the legislation. His Lordship expressed the hope that when amending regulations were next under consideration, thought would be given to that.

Mr Justice Curran agreed.
Solicitors: Son & Co, Islington.

Ingram and Another v Inland Revenue Commissioners
Before Mr Justice Ferris
[Judgment May 17]

A scheme designed to avoid inheritance tax liability by divesting the owner of land of her sole beneficial ownership of the freehold by the purported grant of leases achieved its purpose.

Although the leases were invalid and unenforceable, the equitable interests that were created and which entitled her to remain in occupation up to the time of her death, did not require the land to be treated under section 102 of the Finance Act 1986 as being property to which she was entitled immediately before her death.

Mr Justice Ferris so held in the Chancery Division in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by Mr Michael Warren Ingram and Mr C. D. Palmer-Tomkinson, the executors of the estate of Lady Jane Ingram, deceased, against a determination by the Inland Revenue Commissioners in respect of inheritance tax payable on certain assets on the death of Lady Ingram on February 3, 1989.

Mr Robert Venables, QC and Mr Robert Grieron for the executors; Mr Edward Nugee, QC and Mr Michael Furness for the Crown.

Mr JUSTICE FERRIS said that in 1987 Lady Ingram had owned property in Berkshire that she desired to settle on trustees for the benefit of her family while incurring the minimum of adverse fiscal consequences.

On March 29, 1987, she transferred the property to her solicitor, who on the same day executed two declarations that she held the property as nominee for Lady Ingram. By two leases dated March 30 and 31, 1987, 20-year, rent-free leasehold interests in the land were purportedly granted to Lady Ingram and on March 31 the land subject to the leases was transferred to trustees to hold on specified trusts for the benefit of certain beneficiaries.

It was envisaged that by carrying out the transaction in that way that:

- (a) an effective settlement would be established without incurring liability to any stamp duty;
- (b) the interest taken by Lady Ingram under the leases would have been created in her favour before she had made any gift to the beneficiaries of the settlement;
- (c) the disposition in favour of the beneficiaries would be a potentially exempt transfer for the purposes of the Inheritance Tax Act 1984, as renamed by section 100 of the Finance Act 1986;
- (d) if Lady Ingram survived for seven years after March 31, 1987, the disposition would be treated as an exempt transfer; and
- (e) if she died within the seven-year period nevertheless advantageous consequences so far as the applicable rate of the tax would apply.

In the event Lady Ingram died within two years of the transaction. The Crown contended that the property was "property subject to a reservation" within section 102(2) of the Finance Act 1986 and therefore to be treated as property to which Lady Ingram was beneficially entitled immediately before her death.

By section 102(1) property was subject to a reservation if "at any time in the relevant period the property is not enjoyed to the entire exclusion, or virtually to the entire exclusion, of the donor and of any benefit to him by contract or otherwise". In practical terms, it was said, the relevant period was that between March 31 and Lady Ingram's death.

The route by which the Crown claimed to achieve such a result was:

- 1 The leases in favour of Lady Ingram were of no effect as a nominee could not as a matter of law create an effective lease in favour of his principal.
- 2 The trustees having received the property could not claim to retain it free from the interest thereby expressed to be granted by Lady Ingram, but that interest took effect by way of reservation and thus by way of regrant under section 68(1) and (2) of the Law of Property Act 1925.

Alternatively, Lady Ingram was entitled only in equity to interests commensurate with those expressed to be granted by the leases. On either basis it was contended that Lady Ingram's interest was created either after, or at best contemporaneously with, the gift of the property to the trustees.

3 Where after making a gift a donor received back an interest in the property which was the subject of the gift, that property would not thereafter be enjoyed to the entire exclusion of the donor. The same was said to be the case if the gift and the creation of the donor's interest were contemporaneous.

Thus the appeal gave rise to the following issues:

- 1 Could a nominee grant an effective lease to his principal?
- 2 If he could not, did the existence of Lady Ingram's interest under a reservation, taking effect in accordance with section 65 of the Law of Property Act 1925 or under a lease taking effect in equity have the consequence that the property was not enjoyed to the exclusion of Lady Ingram?

1 Could a nominee grant an effective lease to his principal?

In *Rye v Rye* [1962] AC 496 the House of Lords held that two individuals could not grant to themselves an effective lease of property of which they were the owners.

In the Scottish case of *Kilgumby (Jesse) Ltd v IRC* [1990] STC 657 the Inner House of the Court of Session held that a nominee could not grant a lease of land to the individuals for whom it held as nominee.

The reasoning by which the Inner House reached that conclusion was based on principles which were part of English law. That case was a correct statement of the law of England as well as that of Scotland and the efforts by Mr Venables to distinguish it failed.

It followed that the leases purportedly granted by the solicitor to Lady Ingram were a nullity. 2 Was the property after March 31, 1987 enjoyed to the exclusion of Lady Ingram and of any benefit to her by contract or otherwise?

First the interest, if any, of Lady Ingram in the property had to be analysed. The case put for the executors was to be preferred to that advanced by the Crown that rested on section 65 of the Law of Property Act 1925. Lady Ingram was to be treated as having had equitable interests in the property from the instant when the declarations of trust took effect.

However, it was the Crown's case that Lady Ingram acquired those interests at the earliest contemporaneously with the making by her of a gift in favour of the beneficiaries and that that made the property "subject to a reservation" under section 102 of the Finance Act 1986.

The proposition as formulated by Mr Nugee was: "Where an absolute owner of property makes a gift of a part interest in the property, retaining for himself an interest which gives him a right to the present enjoyment of the property (otherwise than for full consideration...), the case is one in which what is given is the whole of the property with a benefit reserved out of it for the donor, not one in which only part is given and the benefit retained is simply something not given; and section 102 applies accordingly."

The evaluation of that contention involved consideration of cases of high standing decided under the old estate duty legislation. The decision on which the Crown principally relied was that of the Court of Appeal in *In re Nichols (decd)* [1975] 1 WLR 534.

Reference was also made to *Munro v Commissioner of Stamp Duties (NSW)* [1934] AC 61; *Commissioner of Stamp Duties v New South Wales* [1939] AC 1; *Trustee Co Ltd v IRC* [1943] AC 425; *St Aubyn v Attorney-General* [1952] AC 15; and *Oakes v Commissioner of Stamp Duties of New South Wales* [1954] AC 57.

Applying the principles emerging from those authorities, whether Lady Ingram took her leasehold interest in equity or by the operation of section 65 of the 1925 Act, what the trustees and the beneficiaries finished up with was the property subject to those leasehold interests.

Unless there was a period of time at which the trustees and beneficiaries had a more extensive interest out of which the leasehold interests were carved, the subject matter of the gift by Lady Ingram was the property shorn of those leasehold interests.

In terms of substance, Lady Ingram had her leasehold interests from the very same moment that the trustees and beneficiaries had the property subject to those interests.

In the result the property was not subject to a reservation for the purposes of section 102 of the 1986 Act.
Solicitors: Norton Rose; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Court can examine exhibit once produced in evidence

Regina v Pydar Justices, Ex parte Foster
Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Curran
[Judgment May 12]

Once an exhibit was produced in evidence it came under the jurisdiction of the court and the court could examine it whenever it chose.

A defence advocate could not sit tight and make a submission of no case when he saw fit and not point the exhibit out until he was as well under a duty to lay the ground for his submission either by cross-examination or calling evidence.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when dismissing an application for judicial review by Paul Foster of a refusal by Newbury Justices to state a case following his conviction on July 26, 1994 for driving with excess alcohol in his breath.

Mr Francis Burkett, who did not

appear below, for Mr Foster; Mr Nigel Seed for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the police officer who gave relevant evidence had produced in evidence the printout of the Intoximeter. He gave evidence on the lowest reading.

He was not cross-examined on the calibration or functioning of the machine. He handed the document to the prosecutor who then stated the case. The defence submitted there was no case to answer because the printout had not been produced in evidence.

His Lordship dismissed as quite impossible the argument that there was no true distinction between the present case and *Farmer v DPP* [1989] RVR 148 where a printout was never produced in evidence, founded on the basis that the justices did not, before the close of the prosecution

case, have the printout before them or examine it and accordingly did not have knowledge of its contents.

Once an exhibit was produced, the court had jurisdiction over it. It was available to the court and the court could examine it and derive from it all it contained whenever it pleased.

The justices only necessarily came to examine the printout when the defence made a submission of no case.

MR JUSTICE CURRIS addressed the contention that the defence solicitor was entitled to sit tight and make his submission to the justices when he saw fit and not point the document out until then.

There was no doubt that there was a duty on a defence advocate to lay the ground for his submission either by cross-examination or calling evidence.

Solicitors: Coodes, Newquay; Crown Prosecution Service, Truro.

Invoking defence of marital coercion

Regina v Shortland
Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mrs Justice Steel and Mr Justice Hooper
[Judgment May 19]

To invoke a defence of marital coercion, it was necessary for a defendant to prove, on a balance of probabilities, that the offence was committed as a result of her will being overborne by the wishes of her husband, so that she was forced unwillingly to participate in the offence. That coercion did not necessarily require proof of physical force or the threat of physical force.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing an appeal by Malena Iris Shortland against her conviction in December 1994 at Bournemouth Crown Court (Mr Recorder Meggison and a jury) of two offences of making a false statement to procure a passport for which she was sentenced to a conditional discharge for two years, concurrently, each count.

Section 47 of the Criminal Justice Act 1925 provides: "Any presumption of law that an offence committed by a wife in the presence of her husband is committed under the coercion of the husband is hereby abolished, but on a charge against a wife for any offence other than treason or murder it shall be a good defence to prove that the offence was committed in the presence of, and under the coercion of, the husband."

Mr Trevor Wright, assigned by

the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Simon Privett for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY, giving the judgment of the court, said that the prosecution case was that between June and November 1993 the appellant signed two application forms for passports, one a visitor's passport and one a 10-year passport, in the false name of Victoria Lapage, a dead child whose birth certificate the appellant admitted that she had signed both passport applications but asserted that she did that under coercion from her husband.

The ground of appeal was that the prosecution case was given as to the defence of marital coercion.

In the judgment of the court, the formulation used in *R v Gary Richman and Ann Richman* [1982] Crim LR 507 by Judge Cuddeback, sitting in the Crown Court was appropriate. "Coercion did not necessarily mean physical force or the threat of physical force, it could be physical, or moral, she had to prove that her will was overborne by the wishes of her husband, coercion was different from persuading someone out of loyalty."

Unfortunately in the present case, the trial judge, in summing up, did not distinguish between duress and coercion as he should have done. That amounted to a material misdirection as it was the only defence being run in the case. Solicitors: CPS, Bournemouth.

Power of Pensions Ombudsman

Century Life plc v Pensions Ombudsman
Britannia Life Ltd v Same

The jurisdiction of the Pensions Ombudsman to investigate complaints concerning the actions of trustees of pension schemes under section 146(1) of the Pension Schemes Act 1993 was not to be interpreted as applying only to the "trustees or, if there are no trustees, the managers" but extended to "trustees or

managers" within the ordinary meaning of those words.

Mr Justice Dyson so held in the Queen's Bench Division on May 12 in dismissing, on preliminary issues, appeals brought by Century Life plc and Britannia Life Ltd against determinations of the Pensions Ombudsman under section 146 of the 1993 Act.

MR JUSTICE DYSON said that such a construction would limit the value to members of pension

schemes of a cheap and accessible jurisdiction, by excluding the person who in many cases bore the greatest responsibility for maladministration.

His Lordship was not prepared to construe section 146(1) as having that effect unless compelled to do so by the words of the Act. Far from being so compelled he was persuaded that in section 146(1) and (2) "managers" bore anything other than its ordinary meaning.

Scots Law Report May 23 1995

Outer House

Separation of church and state

Logan v Presbytery of Dumbarton
Before Lord Osborne
[Judgment April 26]

The Church of Scotland Act 1921 amounted merely to the recognition by Parliament of the powers of the courts of the Church of Scotland.

The powers not having been granted to the church by Parliament, the civil courts had no jurisdiction to review proceedings in the church courts concerning spiritual matters. In any event, the terms of the 1921 Act excluded such review.

Lord Osborne, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, recalling an interlocutor in a petition for judicial review brought by the Rev Thomas Logan against the Presbytery of Dumbarton pronouncing, *inter alia*, decree of suspension and of interdiction of deliverances issued in those proceedings, on the ground of denial of natural justice. In particular it was averred that there had been a breach of section 6 of the Act of 1921 by the Presbytery of Dumbarton, in appointing an interim moderator to the Parish of Clydesdale.

Article IV of the Articles Declaratory of the Constitution of the Church of Scotland in Matters Spiritual, in the Church of Scotland Act 1921, provides, *inter alia*:

"This Church, as part of the Universal Church, is a spiritual body, its governance is in the hands of its office-bearers, receives from Him, its Divine King and Head, and from Him alone, the right and power subject to no civil authority to legislate, and to adjudicate finally, in all matters of doctrine, worship, government

and discipline in the Church... "Recognition by the civil authority of the separate and independent government and jurisdiction of this Church in matters spiritual, in whatever manner such recognition be expressed, does not in any way affect the character of this government and jurisdiction as derived from the Divine Head of the Church alone or give to the civil authority any right of interference with the proceedings or judgments of the Church within the sphere of its spiritual government and jurisdiction."

Mr John Bonomy, QC, for the Rev Mr Logan, Mr Allan Dunlop, QC, for the presbytery.

LORD OSBORNE said that the petitioner had been induced by the respondents for contravening the presbytery's refusal of permission to engage in certain activities.

He sought judicial review of deliverances issued in those proceedings, on the ground of denial of natural justice. In particular it was averred that there had been a breach of section 6 of the Act of 1921 by the Presbytery of Dumbarton, in appointing an interim moderator to the Parish of Clydesdale.

The respondents submitted that the petition was an allegation of a contempt by him of the church courts. The Kirk sessions, presbyteries and the General Assembly were courts of the realm (Church Jurisdiction Act 1567; General Assembly Act 1992; Protestant Religion and Presbyterian Church Act 1707).

Article VIII of the Declaratory Articles of the Church of Scotland Act 1921 provided that only the Church could interpret the articles. If the church were to do that in an

unacceptable way, the only sanction was that the recognition of the church's position might be withdrawn by Parliament.

While certain actions of the church courts might be the subject of judicial review, that remedy was not available in relation to the matters excluded by article IV. The court's jurisdiction was excluded by *Ballantyne v Presbytery of Wigton* (1936 SC 625; *Buchan v Brodie* (unreported, August 15, 1984); *Lockhart v Presbytery of Deer* (1881) 13 D 1240; *Wight v Presbytery of Dunkeld* (1870) 8 M 921).

It was recognised that it was the concern of the civil courts to be satisfied that any particular matter was a spiritual matter, before declining to exercise their jurisdiction in relation to it. In the present case, there was no dispute that the subject-matter of the petition was a matter of "discipline" within the meaning of article IV.

The petitioner submitted that the terms of the 1921 Act and in particular of the enacting formula showed that it was legislation in the ordinary sense of the word. The supervisory jurisdiction of the court was therefore applicable: see *West v Secretary of State for Scotland* (1992 SLT 636).

If the exercise of the church's jurisdiction was not properly carried out, an aggrieved person had a right to resort to the civil courts. In a situation in which Parliament had conferred powers on the church, the proceedings of the church were subject to judicial review.

His Lordship had reached the conclusion that the issue raised by the petitioner was not one which the court had a jurisdiction to entertain. The subject-matter

plainly fell within the scope of the "matters spiritual".

If that was the matter was at an end, and neither the statute nor the common law nor previous judicial decision... could avail to bring the matter within the jurisdiction of the civil authority." See *Ballantyne v Lord Justice-Clerk of Aberdeen* (at p 64).

The petitioner's argument involved a non sequitur. It overlooked the fact that the 1921 Act "is not an Act of Parliament conferring rights upon the Church, but it is a recognition by Parliament of Articles framed by the General Assembly of the Church as its Supreme Court in the exercise of what it claimed to be its own inherent powers" (*Ballantyne*, ibid).

The situation of the courts of the Church of Scotland could not be equated with that of the tribunals created upon which a power had been conferred by Parliament.

The passage relied on in *West* did not assist the petitioner because the church courts were not bodies "to whom a jurisdiction, power or authority has been delegated or entrusted by statute" (*West*, p 630).

Quite apart from the foregoing considerations, the petitioner's argument came into direct conflict with the provisions of article IV, given legal effect by section 1 of the 1921 Act.

His Lordship did not wish to determine the meaning and effect of the Act. That power had been recognised in *Ballantyne* (p 64). To that limited extent, judicial review might be available in relation to certain church matters.

Law agents: Drummond, Miller, WS; Church of Scotland Law Department.

Third party cannot trace funds

Style Financial Services Ltd v Bank of Scotland
Before the Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Ross), Lord Sutherland and Lord Coulson
[Judgment March 3]

Where a company, which had subsequently gone into receivership, had paid into an overdraft account the sums it collected as agent for a third party, to whom it was obliged to remit them, the third party could not trace those funds in the hands of the bankers, for by applying them to reduce the overdraft neither the company nor the bank had been in breach of any fiduciary relationship.

In any event, since the account had been overdrawn, the sums in question had ceased to exist, but in the circumstances the third party had a relevant case of unjust enrichment against the bank.

If they could establish both that their relationship with the company had been a fiduciary one and that the defendants had known that the sums had been paid into the account for the specific purposes of being paid to the third party, they might recover the funds.

The Second Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so held, refusing a reclaiming motion by the Bank of Scotland against an interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary allowing proof before answer in an action for payment of £3,095,895.72 brought against the bank by Style Financial Services Ltd.

Mr Arthur Hamilton, QC and Mr Gordon Reid, QC, Style; Mr James Drummond Young, QC and Mr Patrick Hodge for the bank.

THE LORD JUSTICE-CLERK

Inner House

Style Financial Services Ltd v Bank of Scotland

said that A. Goldberg & Sons plc had had an account with the defendants into which had been paid cheques drawn in favour of Goldberg and the pursuers.

The cheques had been drawn by customers of Goldberg for sums owed by them to the pursuers under a credit card scheme. Sums so received by Goldberg had not been held in any special account, but had from time to time been remitted to the pursuers. The sums had been paid in when the account had been in overdraft.

Champion's deeds go unheeded Spanish eyes blind to Ballesteros's dazzling campaign

FROM MEL WEBB IN MADRID

NOT so much a prophet without honour in his own land as one without recognition: Severiano Ballesteros, even after his momentous victory in his country's national golf championship, the Spanish Open, on Sunday, remains a figure known to only a section of the Spanish public. And that says more about the game he plays than it does of the man himself.

Ballesteros could walk down the main street of a small town in the Sierra Nevada and if he were remarked upon at all, it might be for his bearing, his dark good looks, his immaculate grooming. There is, however, a good chance that nobody in that small town would have the faintest idea who he was.

If he were to do the same in, say, Twyford or Twickenham, he would be assailed by autograph hunters by the dozen. It would be similar in the United States, Japan, Australia, just about anywhere in the world except the country of his birth.

For all that he has achieved for the sporting heritage of his nation — five major championships and more than 70 victories worldwide — and, through his marvellous Ryder Cup record, his continent, Ballesteros has still not been able to impress himself on the Spanish psyche. It is something that he rarely talks about, but when he does one senses a small regret, a vital ingredient that is missing from a career brimming with achievement.

There is a theory that the Spanish people take only to explosive sports because they are themselves an explosive, emotional people. Football is something close to a religion and players such as *Naimin*, whose 50-yard goal destroyed Arsenal in the UEFA Cup final two weeks ago, and Emilio Butragueno dare hardly venture from their front doors without fear of losing a limb to the idolatry of supporters. Miguel Indurain, the cyclist, has the same problems of recognition. But Ballesteros? Only to the select few.

For all the contribution that he and his fellow professionals have made, the game, by and large, is available to only two sections of the population — the rich, and the brave, hardy men who drag themselves from the poverty-line anonymity of the caddy shack and onto the fairways of the world.

Jeff Kelly is an English journalist who has made his home in Spain and is in closer touch with the game there than almost any other Briton. He works tirelessly to popularise the game, and regrets that the contribution made by such as Ballesteros has not borne fruit.

"It is amazing that in spite of all that Seve has done, there are still only 90,000 registered golfers in Spain," he said. "Seve has done everything he can to make the game more popular here, but still there is no great move by the Spanish people to take it up."

Ballesteros was the found-

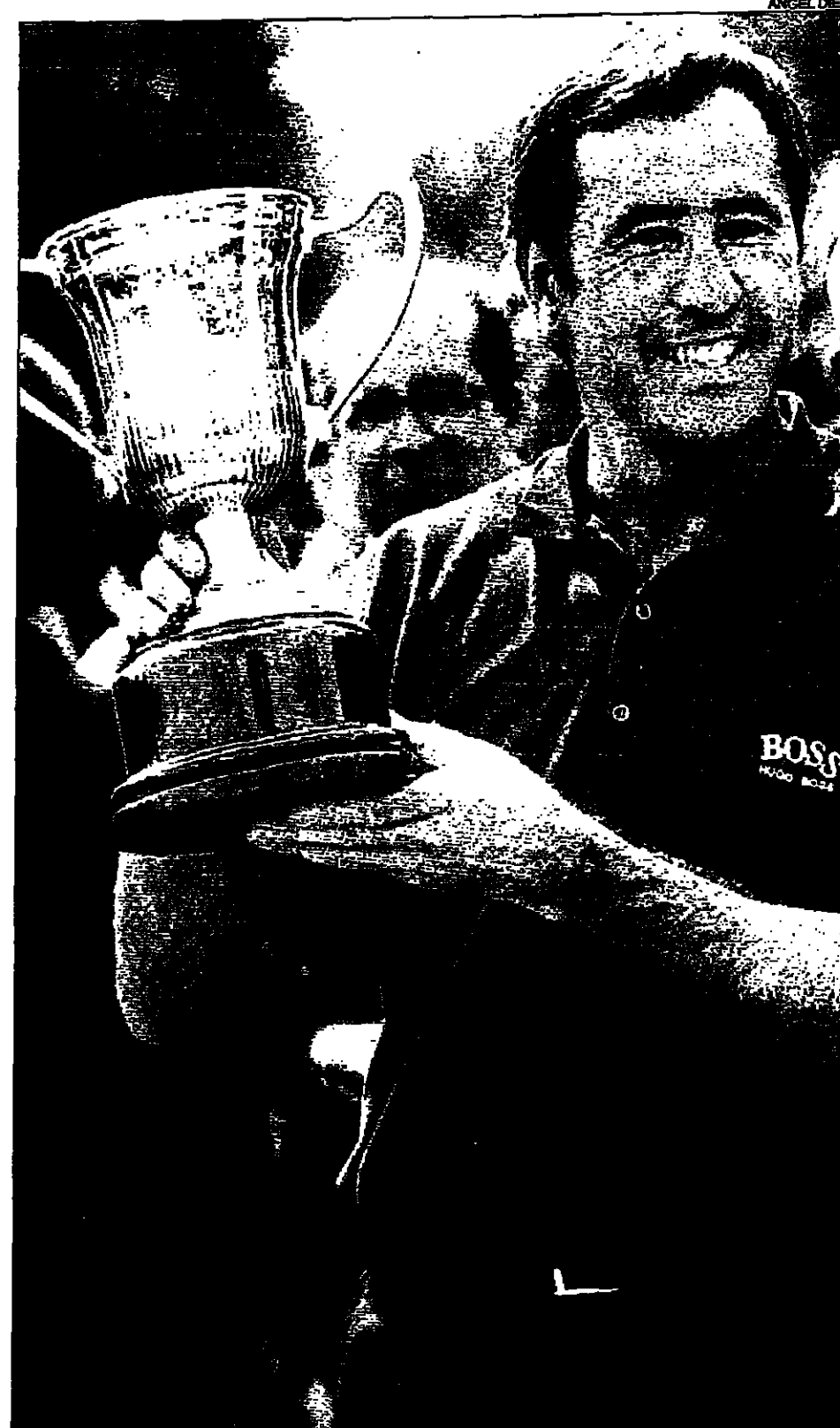
ing father of the modern European Tour, and was responsible almost single-handedly for its growth in the late Seventies and early Eighties. If he were not to hit another ball in competitive anger, the debt that his fellow professionals would owe him would be incalculable.

"It was very important for Spanish golf that I won here," Ballesteros said after his win. "With José Rivero and Ignacio Garrido finishing second together, it was the best possible way for us to show that Spanish golf is in strong hands."

Safe hands, too. Ballesteros has had his career ended for him by doubting cynics for three years or more. He showed at Club de Campo that the reports of his death as a leading player were laughably premature. There remains much to be done on, and off, the course.

Nothing is more certain than that Ballesteros will captain the European team when the Ryder Cup goes to Valderrama in 1997 if he wants to. He shrugged off questions about that. "I might be playing," he said. "If the evidence of last week is anything to go by, indeed he might."

Whatever role he plays in that match, he will do his job with dignity, pride and courage. Even as he does so, however, there will still be people in the Sierra Nevada who have not heard of him. How sad.



Ballesteros raises the trophy after winning the Spanish Open at Club de Campo

Singh gains third US win after late errors by Faldo

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NICK FALDO, two strokes clear with seven holes to play, faded into a share of fourth place in the Buick Classic at Westchester Country Club, New York. The event was won by Vijay Singh, of Fiji, a former member of the European Tour, who birdied the fifth hole of a sudden-death playoff to beat Doug Martin, of the United States.

Singh, the overnight leader at seven under par, had a final round of 72 on Sunday to tie with Martin, who birdied three of the last four holes to force the play-off, which turned into the longest on the US PGA Tour since the New England Open in 1991.

Martin's second shot at the fifth extra hole, the par-five 18th, put him in trouble and he made a bogey, allowing Singh to take a two-stroke lead. Singh, if he needed it, from 15 feet for a par save. As it turned out, he only needed one putt.

"I had a lot of opportunities for birdies all day. Sooner or later, one of them had to fall. I didn't really need it, but it was nice to make one at last," Singh said.

Singh also won his tournament in 1993, his first win in America, when he defeated Mark Wiebe in a play-off. His second win came in January this year when he took the Phoenix Open, also in a play-off, against Billy Mayfair.

Faldo initially played the steady

and precise golf required to master a course notable for tight fairways and deep rough.

He made birdies at the 6th, 9th and 10th holes to get to eight under par but he made several bad swings over the closing holes and dropped shots at the 12th, 15th, 16th and 17th holes.

"I was playing well. I just hit a few bad shots," said Faldo, who has returned home to play in the Volvo PGA championship at Wentworth this weekend.

The second-place finish was a career best for Martin, 28, who led after the first round in which he eagled the 18th. In the previous event, the Byron Nelson Classic, Martin faded from a stroke off the lead to 55th in the course of 36 holes, but at Westchester he stayed in the hunt, although he admitted that standing on the 15th tee he was just trying to ensure a high finish, rather than attempting the birdies he knew he needed for a chance of winning.

ATHLETICS

NEW YORK GAMES (US unless stated): Women: 100m: 10.8m (S. Williams, USA); 200m: 22.8m (S. Williams, USA); 400m: 1.00m (S. Williams, USA); 800m: 2.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,600m: 4.00m (S. Williams, USA); 3,200m: 8.00m (S. Williams, USA); 6,400m: 16.00m (S. Williams, USA); 12,800m: 32.00m (S. Williams, USA); 25,600m: 64.00m (S. Williams, USA); 51,200m: 128.00m (S. Williams, USA); 102,400m: 256.00m (S. Williams, USA); 204,800m: 512.00m (S. Williams, USA); 409,600m: 1,024.00m (S. Williams, USA); 819,200m: 2,048.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,638,400m: 4,096.00m (S. Williams, USA); 3,276,800m: 8,192.00m (S. Williams, USA); 6,553,600m: 16,384.00m (S. Williams, USA); 13,107,200m: 32,768.00m (S. Williams, USA); 26,214,400m: 65,536.00m (S. Williams, USA); 52,428,800m: 131,072.00m (S. Williams, USA); 104,857,600m: 262,144.00m (S. Williams, USA); 209,715,200m: 524,288.00m (S. Williams, USA); 419,430,400m: 1,048,576.00m (S. Williams, USA); 838,860,800m: 2,097,152.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,677,721,600m: 4,194,304.00m (S. Williams, USA); 3,355,443,200m: 8,388,608.00m (S. Williams, USA); 6,710,886,400m: 16,777,216.00m (S. Williams, USA); 13,421,772,800m: 33,554,432.00m (S. Williams, USA); 26,843,545,600m: 67,108,864.00m (S. Williams, USA); 53,687,091,200m: 134,217,728.00m (S. Williams, USA); 107,374,182,400m: 268,435,456.00m (S. Williams, USA); 214,748,364,800m: 536,870,912.00m (S. Williams, USA); 429,496,729,600m: 1,073,741,824.00m (S. Williams, USA); 858,993,459,200m: 2,147,483,648.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,717,986,918,400m: 4,294,967,296.00m (S. Williams, USA); 3,435,973,836,800m: 8,589,934,592.00m (S. Williams, USA); 6,871,947,673,600m: 17,179,869,184.00m (S. Williams, USA); 13,743,895,347,200m: 34,359,738,368.00m (S. Williams, USA); 27,487,786,694,400m: 68,719,476,736.00m (S. Williams, USA); 54,975,573,388,800m: 137,438,953,472.00m (S. Williams, USA); 109,951,146,777,600m: 274,877,906,944.00m (S. Williams, USA); 219,902,293,555,200m: 549,755,813,888.00m (S. Williams, USA); 439,804,587,110,400m: 1,099,511,627,776.00m (S. Williams, USA); 879,609,174,220,800m: 2,199,023,255,552.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,759,218,348,441,600m: 4,398,046,511,104.00m (S. Williams, USA); 3,518,436,696,883,200m: 8,796,093,022,208.00m (S. Williams, USA); 7,036,873,393,766,400m: 17,592,180,444,416.00m (S. Williams, USA); 14,073,746,787,532,800m: 35,184,360,888,832.00m (S. Williams, USA); 28,147,493,575,065,600m: 70,368,721,777,664.00m (S. Williams, USA); 56,294,987,150,131,200m: 140,737,443,555,328.00m (S. Williams, USA); 112,589,974,300,262,400m: 281,474,887,110,656.00m (S. Williams, USA); 225,179,948,600,524,800m: 562,949,774,221,312.00m (S. Williams, USA); 450,359,897,201,049,600m: 1,125,899,548,442,624.00m (S. Williams, USA); 900,719,794,402,099,200m: 2,251,799,096,885,248.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,801,439,588,804,198,400m: 4,503,598,193,770,496.00m (S. Williams, USA); 3,602,879,177,608,396,800m: 9,007,196,387,540,992.00m (S. Williams, USA); 7,205,758,355,216,793,600m: 18,014,392,775,081,984.00m (S. Williams, USA); 14,411,516,710,433,587,200m: 36,028,785,550,163,968.00m (S. Williams, USA); 28,823,033,420,867,174,400m: 72,057,571,100,327,937.00m (S. Williams, USA); 57,646,066,841,734,348,800m: 144,115,142,200,655,874.00m (S. Williams, USA); 115,292,133,683,468,697,600m: 288,230,284,401,311,749.00m (S. Williams, USA); 230,584,267,366,937,395,200m: 576,460,568,802,623,498.00m (S. Williams, USA); 461,168,534,733,874,790,400m: 1,152,921,137,605,246,996.00m (S. Williams, USA); 922,337,069,467,749,580,800m: 2,305,842,275,210,493,992.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,844,674,138,935,499,161,600m: 4,611,684,550,420,987,984.00m (S. Williams, USA); 3,689,348,277,870,998,323,200m: 9,223,377,100,841,975,968.00m (S. Williams, USA); 7,378,696,555,741,996,646,400m: 18,446,752,161,683,951,936.00m (S. Williams, USA); 14,757,393,111,483,993,292,800m: 36,893,504,323,367,903,872.00m (S. Williams, USA); 29,514,782,222,967,986,585,600m: 73,787,008,646,735,815,744.00m (S. Williams, USA); 59,029,564,445,935,973,171,200m: 147,574,017,293,471,631,488.00m (S. Williams, USA); 118,059,128,891,871,946,342,400m: 295,148,034,586,943,262,976.00m (S. Williams, USA); 236,118,257,783,763,892,684,800m: 590,296,069,173,886,525,951.00m (S. Williams, USA); 472,236,515,567,527,787,769,600m: 1,180,592,138,347,773,571,902.00m (S. Williams, USA); 944,473,031,135,055,575,559,200m: 2,361,184,276,695,547,143,804.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,888,946,062,260,111,111,111,200m: 4,722,368,553,391,094,287,608.00m (S. Williams, USA); 3,777,892,124,522,222,222,222,400m: 9,444,737,106,782,181,575,215.00m (S. Williams, USA); 7,555,784,244,444,444,444,444,800m: 18,889,464,213,564,363,150,430.00m (S. Williams, USA); 15,111,568,488,888,888,888,889,600m: 37,778,928,427,128,726,300,860.00m (S. Williams, USA); 30,223,137,377,777,777,777,778,200m: 75,557,856,854,257,452,601,720.00m (S. Williams, USA); 60,446,274,755,555,555,555,556,400m: 151,115,713,708,514,904,803,440.00m (S. Williams, USA); 120,892,549,511,111,111,111,112,800m: 302,231,427,417,029,809,606,880.00m (S. Williams, USA); 241,785,098,022,222,222,222,224,000m: 604,462,854,834,058,619,213,760.00m (S. Williams, USA); 483,570,196,044,444,444,444,448,000m: 1,208,940,389,668,917,238,427,520.00m (S. Williams, USA); 967,140,392,088,888,888,888,896,000m: 2,417,880,779,337,836,476,855,040.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,934,280,784,177,777,777,778,179,200m: 4,835,761,558,675,672,953,710.00m (S. Williams, USA); 3,868,561,568,355,555,555,556,358,400m: 9,671,523,117,353,345,907,420.00m (S. Williams, USA); 7,737,123,136,711,111,111,112,712,800m: 19,343,046,234,706,691,814,840.00m (S. Williams, USA); 15,474,246,273,422,222,222,224,424,000m: 38,686,092,469,413,383,629,680.00m (S. Williams, USA); 30,948,492,546,844,444,444,448,848,000m: 77,372,184,938,826,767,259,360.00m (S. Williams, USA); 61,896,985,093,688,888,888,897,696,000m: 154,744,379,877,653,534,518,720.00m (S. Williams, USA); 123,793,970,187,377,777,778,139,379,200m: 309,488,759,755,307,069,037,440.00m (S. Williams, USA); 247,587,940,374,755,555,556,278,758,400m: 618,977,519,510,614,138,074,880.00m (S. Williams, USA); 495,175,880,749,511,111,112,557,516,800m: 1,237,955,039,021,228,276,159,760.00m (S. Williams, USA); 990,351,761,498,022,222,224,111,513,600m: 2,475,910,078,042,456,552,319,520.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,980,703,522,996,044,444,448,223,027,200m: 4,951,820,156,084,913,104,639,040.00m (S. Williams, USA); 3,961,407,045,992,088,888,896,446,054,400m: 9,903,640,312,169,826,209,278,080.00m (S. Williams, USA); 7,922,814,091,984,177,777,778,892,108,800m: 19,807,280,624,339,653,418,556,160.00m (S. Williams, USA); 15,845,628,183,968,355,555,556,178,217,600m: 39,614,561,248,679,307,037,112.00m (S. Williams, USA); 31,691,256,377,937,711,111,112,356,435,200m: 79,229,122,497,358,614,074,224.00m (S. Williams, USA); 63,382,512,755,875,422,222,224,712,860,400m: 158,458,244,994,717,228,228,448.00m (S. Williams, USA); 126,765,025,511,749,844,444,448,142,521,600m: 316,916,489,989,434,456,456,896.00m (S. Williams, USA); 253,530,051,023,499,688,888,896,285,043,200m: 633,841,979,978,868,912,912,792.00m (S. Williams, USA); 507,060,102,046,997,377,778,570,086,400m: 1,267,683,959,957,737,825,825,584.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,014,120,204,093,795,155,556,114,172,171,200m: 2,535,367,919,915,475,651,651,168.00m (S. Williams, USA); 2,028,240,408,187,590,311,112,228,342,400m: 5,070,735,839,830,951,302,302,336.00m (S. Williams, USA); 4,056,480,816,375,182,622,224,456,684,800m: 10,141,469,679,661,902,604,604,672.00m (S. Williams, USA); 8,112,961,632,750,365,244,448,913,369,600m: 20,282,939,359,323,805,209,209,344.00m (S. Williams, USA); 16,225,923,265,500,730,488,889,826,739,200m: 40,565,878,718,647,610,418,418,688.00m (S. Williams, USA); 32,451,846,531,001,461,977,778,165,478,400m: 81,131,757,437,293,232,836,836,816.00m (S. Williams, USA); 64,903,693,062,002,923,955,556,330,956,800m: 162,263,514,874,586,465,673,673,632.00m (S. Williams, USA); 129,807,386,124,004,847,911,112,661,913,600m: 324,527,029,749,173,131,347,347,264.00m (S. Williams, USA); 259,614,772,248,008,695,822,224,132,382,400m: 648,054,059,498,346,262,694,694,528.00m (S. Williams, USA); 519,229,544,496,016,391,644,448,264,764,800m: 1,296,108,118,996,692,515,389,389,056.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,038,459,092,032,032,783,283,288,529,529,600m: 2,592,216,237,993,385,570,778,778,112.00m (S. Williams, USA); 2,076,918,184,064,064,566,566,105,858,080m: 5,184,436,475,968,771,141,141,224.00m (S. Williams, USA); 4,153,836,368,128,113,113,114,211,211,200m: 10,368,871,937,937,282,282,282,240.00m (S. Williams, USA); 8,307,672,736,256,226,226,228,422,422,400m: 20,737,743,875,875,564,564,564,480.00m (S. Williams, USA); 16,615,345,472,512,452,452,454,844,844,800m: 41,475,487,751,751,816,816,816,960.00m (S. Williams, USA); 33,230,690,944,102,904,904,908,169,632,000m: 82,954,969,503,503,632,632,632,192.00m (S. Williams, USA); 66,461,381,888,204,808,808,816,339,264,000m: 165,909,939,007,007,264,264,264,384.00m (S. Williams, USA); 132,922,763,776,409,617,617,620,678,528,000m: 331,819,878,014,014,528,528,528,768.00m (S. Williams, USA); 265,845,527,552,819,235,235,236,135,856,000m: 663,639,756,028,028,1056,1056,1056,1536.00m (S. Williams, USA); 531,691,055,104,163,470,470,472,271,712,000m: 1,327,279,512,056,056,2112,2112,2112,3072.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,063,382,110,326,326,328,642,542,544,000m: 2,654,559,024,011,011,4224,4224,4224,6144.00m (S. Williams, USA); 2,126,764,220,652,652,656,128,108,108,800m: 5,309,118,048,022,022,844,844,844,12288.00m (S. Williams, USA); 4,253,528,440,130,504,504,508,256,216,216,400m: 10,618,236,096,044,044,168,168,168,24576.00m (S. Williams, USA); 8,507,056,880,260,100,100,102,512,432,432,432,49152.00m (S. Williams, USA); 17,014,112,760,520,200,200,204,102,864,864,864,98304.00m (S. Williams, USA); 34,028,225,520,400,400,404,204,172,172,172,296608.00m (S. Williams, USA); 68,056,451,040,800,800,808,408,344,344,344,593216.00m (S. Williams, USA); 136,112,902,160,160,164,816,688,688,688,1186432.00m (S. Williams, USA); 272,225,804,320,320,324,164,137,137,137,2372864.00m (S. Williams, USA); 544,451,608,640,640,644,328,274,274,274,4745728.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,088,903,216,128,128,132,648,548,548,548,9491456.00m (S. Williams, USA); 2,177,806,432,256,256,260,129,109,109,109,18982912.00m (S. Williams, USA); 4,355,612,864,512,512,516,258,218,218,218,37965824.00m (S. Williams, USA); 8,711,225,728,1024,1024,1028,516,436,436,436,75931648.00m (S. Williams, USA); 17,422,451,456,2048,2048,2056,1032,872,872,872,151863296.00m (S. Williams, USA); 34,844,902,912,4096,4096,4112,2064,1744,1744,1744,303726720.00m (S. Williams, USA); 69,689,804,1824,1824,1832,4128,3488,3488,3488,607453440.00m (S. Williams, USA); 139,378,608,3648,3648,3664,8256,6976,6976,6976,1214906880.00m (S. Williams, USA); 278,757,216,7296,7296,7312,16512,13952,13952,13952,2429813760.00m (S. Williams, USA); 557,514,4384,14592,14592,14624,27824,23904,23904,23904,4859627520.00m (S. Williams, USA); 1,115,028,876,29184,29184,29248,55648,47808,47808,47808,9719255040.00m (S. Williams, USA); 2,230,057,752,58368,58368,58496,111296,95616,95616,95616,19438510080.00m (S. Williams, USA); 4,460,115,504,116736,116736,116896,222592,191232,191232,191232,38877020160.00m (S. Williams, USA); 8,920,231,008,233472,233472,233632,445184,382464,382464,382464,77754040320.00m (S. Williams, USA); 17,840,462,016,466944,466944,467264,890368,764928,764928,764928,155508080640.00m (S. Williams, USA); 35,680,924,032,933888,933888,934528,1780736,1529856,1529856,1529856,311016161280.00m (S. Williams, USA); 71,361,848,064,1867776,1867776,1869056,3561472

High-tech methods produce rapid gains in speed and endurance

Scientists get England fighting fit

Alison Kervin reports
on the revolution that
has transformed the
shape of English rugby

Ten years ago, it would have seemed a little like trespassing on private property, but today, fitness advisers and assessors are such an integral part of rugby union, that the England team has been revolutionised by their presence.

When the players run out against Argentina on Saturday for their opening match in the World Cup, they will be fitter than any England rugby team before them. They are bigger, faster, better prepared to cope with the heat and humidity, and less susceptible to injury.

Rex Hazeldine, the England fitness adviser, is largely responsible for the transformation. He has established a network of fitness experts around the country, devised an 18-month fitness programme to peak for the World Cup, and collated information about the way that fitness for the sport has developed.

The results of these statistics, logged on a computer at Loughborough University, reveal that size is much more important at international level today, and that back rows, in particular, are much bigger than they were in the inaugural World Cup, in 1987.

There is an average weight increase of 10.5lb in the backs and more than 18.5lb in the forwards; in the back row the average height and weight in 1988 was just over 5ft 11in and 213.4lb, whereas in 1994 it was over 6ft 3in and 235.4lb.

Jason Leonard, the England prop, works with Dave Croft, the fitness adviser who has also worked with Ben Clarke, Brian Moore and Will Carling. "Jason can't afford to lose any weight because he needs it to overcome inertia, but he needs minimum body fat," Croft said.

"Over the past few years, he has gone from 17st 1lb to 18st 2lb, with a 1.3 per cent drop in body fat: that's putting on over a stone of pure lean muscle weight. The training that Jason does is in a different league to the training that props were doing during the first World Cup. The forwards today train like the backs did then."

The change in approach to training clearly manifests itself in the statistics, in which even the off-maligned forwards fare well. A forward today has increased his speed over 15 metres to such an extent that the average is almost as fast as the backs that played for England in the first World Cup. The forwards' endurance today is better than the backs who played in 1987.



Underwood brothers Tony, left, and Rory work out in heat-retaining dry suits designed to prepare the team for conditions in South Africa

Endurance is measured as VO₂Max, the volume of oxygen that the body can take in and use. This area of fitness will be particularly important in South Africa because there is less oxygen at altitude. Another way in which the endurance fitness of the players has been measured is through the "bleep" test, which involves running back and forth between cones 20 metres apart.

The forwards were reaching level 12 in 1988, but, in 1994, it had risen to level 13 and one shuttle (a run between the

cones). The backs were on level 12 and 10 shuttles (two shuttles short of level 13) in 1988, and, in 1994, they were on level 14 and three shuttles.

The fitness revolution really started when the players returned from the 1987 World Cup. Geoff Cooke, the then England manager, was keen for fitness to take on more prominence in squad preparation, so a sports science education programme was set up at Loughborough University.

The programme deals with the physiological factors of performance such as diet,

nutrition, fitness and fluid intake. "The sports science programme was established as a backlash to the highly technical fitness we perceived the Australians and New Zealanders to be doing," Hazeldine said.

"The advent of the World Cup has allowed rugby to concentrate around a four-year cycle which permits longer training stages, hence greater development. Also the number of competitive league, cup and divisional fixtures has doubled over the last seven years, and the way the English season is structured, the first game of the season is as important as the last, so the players need to be fitter for longer."

"The changes in the laws have also had some impact because they have speeded up the game, there is more continuity now, the games are more competitive, there is more at stake and defences have improved. Players have to work harder and at greater intensity in every game."

"For the specific World Cup fitness build-up, we've put together an 18-month programme divided into ten phases of the 68-week countdown. The stages comprise maintenance, rest, recuperation, power, pace, endurance, strength-based training, aero-

bic endurance, acceleration and plyometrics with long-distance and interval training. The players tend to work with their own fitness advisers, and all the information is pooled here at Loughborough."

This work is a far cry from 1986, when Dr Craig Sharp, a physiologist, analysed the fitness components of 33 sports to find out which demanded the greatest fitness. Rugby union backs came nineteenth, just ahead of netball, and the forwards came an unimpressive 32nd, just behind table tennis.

One of the significant features of the players' improved fitness is the lower incidence of injury. Although there is no official record of the change, Kevin Murphy, the England physiotherapist, uses his own method of calculating the decline in injuries. It relates to the number of pots of Vaseline that he uses on the insides of the players' thighs to minimise chaffing. This has dropped as the players have increased their muscularity and decreased their body fat, from almost two pots a game to less than half.

ENGLAND'S RISING FITNESS LEVELS			
Measured in millimetres of oxygen per kilogram of body weight per minute			
1988		1994	
180.18lb	Average weight	190.52lb	Average weight
58.8	Endurance (VO ₂ max)*	61.5	Endurance (VO ₂ max)*
Level 12 (and 20 shuttles)	Endurance (bleep test)	Level 14 (and 3 shuttles)	Endurance (bleep test)
2.33 sec	15-metre sprint	2.28 sec	15-metre sprint
FORWARDS			
218.02lb	Average weight	237.72lb	Average weight
54.3	Endurance (VO ₂ max)*	57.2	Endurance (VO ₂ max)*
Level 12	Endurance (bleep test)	Level 13 (and 1 shuttle)	Endurance (bleep test)
2.47 sec	15-metre sprint	2.41 sec	15-metre sprint



Moore and Morris, right, shake a leg in training

French changes get Villepreux's vote

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

PIERRE VILLEPREUX, the highly regarded French rugby union coach, believes his countrymen are capable of reaching at least the semi-finals of the World Cup, despite a "hair-brained gimmick" by their three-quarters, who decided to shave their heads.

"It was a crazy idea, whoever had it," Villepreux, the full back who won 36 caps for France and has helped England's preparations, said. "I would not have allowed it. Your hair protects your head from serious injury, and if those players get scratches and start to bleed from the scalp, they will have to leave the field for treatment under the new rules, thus destabilising the team."

"It might not help psychologically either, since they will stand out now. If they play badly, they'll be in for real criticism."

Villepreux, who is in South Africa to lecture on player preparation at an international rugby conference, believes that after their defeats against Scotland — their pool D World Cup rivals — and England in the five nations' championship, France would return to a game plan

of rock-solid defence, a no-risk policy at set pieces, and counter-attacks from broken play.

"I don't know what went wrong during the five nations," he said. "It's hard to see what they were trying to do from the outside. But [Pierre] Berbizier [the France coach] knows the game. He's a long way from being stupid. He'll base the game on defence and set-piece solidity and kicking — until the breakdown, when there will be total liberty."

"French players adapt well and the route to the semi-finals looks clear for them. After that, anything is possible. Nobody will be happy to meet France in the last four."

Olivier Brouzet, the France lock, will miss their opening pool D match, against Tonga on Friday, after sustaining an ankle injury during training yesterday. Olivier Roumat, the former captain, is his likely replacement.

Wales, who open their pool C programme against Japan in Bloemfontein on Saturday, will need more than their famed determination if they want to make an impact, according to Alex

Evans, their coach. "We must... start accepting that we have to play with skill rather than just pride and passion," Evans said yesterday.

"You don't need to teach anything about passion to the Welsh because they are born with it, but sometimes it can be more harmful than good because it can break down the skill factor."

After a strenuous training session yesterday, Evans said that while there were no injury problems, the Wales squad was having difficulty coping with the altitude. "It's not just physical, but psychological as well, and you just have to adapt," he said.

David Campese, the Australia wing, is suffering from a cold, but it should not keep him out of the tournament's opening game, against South Africa on Thursday. "Campese got a bad cold, but he's not in any doubt at all," Bob Dwyer, the coach, said after a training session in Cape Town. Dwyer said that Jason Little, the centre, had also picked up a minor strain, but would also be fit. Up to 4,000 tickets are still available for the match.



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Botica allays Wigan fears over departure

FRANCO BOTICA, rugby league's leading points-scorer this season with 408 from nine tries and 186 goals, has allayed fears that he is to join the exodus from Wigan (Christopher Irvine writes).

Botica, 31, is to spend the summer with Auckland Warriors, but said yesterday that he would be back at Central Park for the truncated season in August before the launch of the Super League next March.

Dennis Betts is leaving Wigan for Auckland on a full-time contract and Phil Clarke joins Sydney City Roosters this week. Oldham yesterday signed Rob Myler, 25, the

Warrington utility back, for £50,000, taking their Super League spending to £160,000 after the capture of Paul Acheson and Mike Neal, from Wigan, and Francis Maloney, from Warrington.

Warrington, meanwhile, have lined up a move for Dave King, 27, the Australian prop at Huddersfield. They want to sign him on a 24-month contract if the existing two-man import quota is raised, as expected.

Peter Higham, the Warrington chairman, said: "We have been watching Dave for some time and we believe that he has the size and power to be a big success in the Super League."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

FORSAIRE

(c) A galley-slave, an adaptation of the French *forsaire*, *forçaire*, now superseded by *forçat*. "A proclamation that every such author be committed into the galleys, there to row in chains, as a slave or forsaire."

GENOUILLE

(c) A flexible piece of armour for covering the knees, with joints like those of a lobster, from the Old French *genouil*, modern French *genou*, Latin *genū*, popular Latin *geniculum* a knee. "The knees are guarded by genouillères of peculiar form."

GRAVAMINOUS

(c) Grievous, annoying, distressing, from the Latin *gravāmen* a heavy burden. "A dishonour unto God, and a gravaminous burden to the ships and men they do go amongst."

FLASKER

(c) To flap about (as a fish), to flutter (as a bird), to flounder, onomatopoeic, with frequentative suffix common in verbs expressing agitated motion. "Hale him not too near the top of the water, lest by flaskering he break your line."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
Not 1... Nxd4 wins a vital pawn, as 2... Qx2 runs into 2... Nf3. 3... Kf1 Ne2 mate.

RADIO CHOICE

A funny tale of two cities

Fifty Years On. Radio 4 FM. 10.00am.
Alan Bennett's reminiscences of his wartime boyhood and postwar adolescence are delivered in that fusion of funny-ha-ha and funny-peculiar styles so characteristic of the man and his works. Because there was hardly any shrapnel in the streets in the wake of the air-raids on Leeds, he and his brother felt this was tantamount to deprivation. There was a coffee shop in Gildford which his family thought was smart. "But we used to go to it, so it couldn't have been thought was smart." But we used to go to it, so it couldn't have been thought was smart. "But we used to go to it, so it couldn't have been thought was smart." But we used to go to it, so it couldn't have been thought was smart.

God, the Devil and the Good Tunes. Radio 2. 9.00pm.
I shudder to think how much midnight oil presenter-writer Ian Bradley must have burnt while researching this programme. He offers examples of popular songs and poems being hijacked by the Church and, conversely, hymns being reborn as secular songs. *Champagne Charlie* metamorphosed into *Storm the Forts of Darkness*. In the Great War, *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* became *We are Fred Karno's Army*, a song for disgruntled soldiers. Ironically, the nation's favourite hymn *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* began life as a 19th-century diatribe against wholehearted singing of hymns.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Dave Pearce 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa (Anson) 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 The Bruce Dickinson Rock Show 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Martin Koller 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce, including at 10.00 Pick of the Hits 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Chris Shute 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.45 John Dunn 7.00 Hayes over Britain 8.30 Whodunnit? 9.00 God, the Devil and the Good Tunes. See Choice 10.00 Coasting with Noakes 10.30 The Jamieson 12.00am Steve Meddian 4.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, including at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Radio Preview 7.15 The Police's Story 8.35 The Magazine incl at 10.20 A Handful of Hooligans: Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl at 12.34pm Moneyweek, and at 1.35 Crime in the Community 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide, and at 4.45 Crime Update 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 Sport 7.35 Cricket, Lovely Cricket (2/3) 8.05 Inside Edge 9.35 Laying Down the Law: Hookers with Typewriters 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Report (incl.) 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sean Dolger 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Reuben 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Graham Dene 8.00am Nick Abbot 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Jenny Lee Grace 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.30am Open University: Caribbean and Asian Workers 6.55 Weather 7.00 On Air: Bizet (Pelle suite: Jaux d'enfance); 7.16 Handel: Handicap: Handel (Recorder Sonata in D minor, Op. 1 No 9); 7.32 Mendelssohn (Overture: Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage); 8.05 Steve Marriott (Principal); 8.08 Oswald (Sonata on Scots Tunes); 8.32 Mozart (Divertimento in D) 9.00 Composer of the Week: Widor and Vierne 10.00 Musical Encounters: Bach (Concerto in C for three harpsichords); Chopin (Polish Songs, Op. 74, complete); Wagner (A Faust Overture); 10.54 Artists of the Week: City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Saint-Saëns (Le Carnaval des animaux); Mozart (Divertimento in B flat); Michael Berkeley (Coronach) 12.00 Ensemble: The Emperor Quartet performs Haydn (String Quartet in B minor, Op 35 No 1); Britten (String Quartet No 3) 1.00 Fairfest Isles: BBC Festival of Brass 1995: Paul Hindmarsh introduces a concert given by the Williams Fairly Band, the European Champions, under Peter Parkes, Eric Ball (Song of Courage); Adrian Cuit (Chess Pieces, first broadcast); Edward Gregson (Connotations); Judith Bingham (The Stars Above); Philip Wilby (Dragons Arise) (GB) 2.00 Schools: Playtime 8.15 Time to Move 2.35 Ghostwriter 2.45 Le Club

RADIO 4

6.55am Shipping Forecast 8.00 News; Weather 8.10 Farming Today 8.25 Prayer for the Day 8.30 Today incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Call Nick Ross: 0171-580 4444 10.00-10.30 News; Fifty Years On (FM only): See Choice 10.30 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 From Pisto to the Present (LW only): Sean Campion reads from Bertrand Russell's *The Problems of Philosophy* 10.30 Women's Hour: Jenni Murray interviews Jane Smiley, *Series: Electricity* by Victoria Glendinning (1/12) 11.30 The Psychology of War: The first of three programmes in which Falklands commando Hugh McKinnern explores the psychological aspects of war 12.00 News; You and Yours 12.25pm Quotable... Unquotable: Lord Hailsham, Lord Jeffrey, Claire Rayner and Penny Vincenzi join Nigel Rees for the quotation quiz 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Thirty Minutes Theatre: Housheer's Child. Colin MacDonald's comedy about a 50-year-old bachelor fisherman who finds himself yearning for a baby. With John Burt and Vicky Sykes 2.30 Richard Baker: *Composers* Notes with members of the London Metropolitan Ensemble 3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift

RADIO 1: FM 97.5-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 89-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 1984/2/1515m; FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198. RADIO 5: 57.3. CAPITAL: 1548/4/12/19m; FM 94.2; LW 198.4. CLASSIC FM: 100-102. VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. TALK RADIO: MW 1089, 1053kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Miley

مكتبة الأصل

Of boors, brutes, butchers and Bramwell

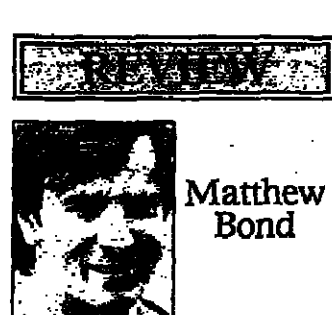
In years to come, sociologists will no doubt hypothesise long and hard about the unexpected revival in pub culture that marked the final years of the 20th century. It was, they will observe, a strangely one-sided phenomenon that seemed to involve only the male of the species. What on earth had been going on? Well, let me just give their researches a little nudge in the right direction. Study the television pages.

For a close inspection of these what critics of the day (well, Tuesdays and Thursdays at least) would dub "seriously girly television" (SGT). One popular drama followed another in portraying men in the most unappealing of ways.

In *Prime Suspect* we were boorish or brutish, in *The Governor* boorish or bad, and in *Shes Out* boorish and banished altogether. But as the phrase "I'm just nipping

out for a La Plante" entered the language (note to future sociologists: a La Plante - a visit to the pub normally beginning at 9pm and lasting the length of a two-hour special), the trial by stereotype continued. In *The Politician's Wife* we are both boorish and backward, and now, as we chaps despair of ever being taken seriously as sex objects again, along comes *Bramwell* (ITV), with an unedifying three-way bet between boors, butchers and pox-ridden brutes. After all, when your sex is represented by Robert Hardy at his most high-falootin' you know you're in serious trouble.

Within two stomach-churning minutes, Hardy's Sir Herbert Hamilton was ripping out ovaries without so much as a by your leave, don'tcha know. As a slip of the knife dispatched his young patient to an early mortuary slab, his students stood and cheered -



to the man, of course. It may have been the sight of all that blood, but I was already feeling faint.

SGT is undoubtedly it, but *Bramwell*, the story of a young woman doctor's struggle to succeed in chauvinist, late-Victorian Britain, still deserves a good two-and-a-half cheers.

First, there are no policemen in it (it hurrah!) although hospital medicine hardly counts as breaking new ground. Second, the story is made up (hurrah!) rather than based on real-life characters or collected together from newspaper headlines. That said, when passing dinner guests turn out to be not just the Chancellor of the Exchequer but a Chancellor with a nasty case of syphilis, there is a danger of fiction being not just stranger than fact but downright improbable. And third, *Bramwell* is a period piece (hurrah!) with enjoyable echoes of

episode. As for Lucy Gannon's storylines - Eleanor learns to ride a bike, Eleanor diagnoses syphilis, Eleanor invents trousers, Eleanor sets up a hospital in the East End - they are pure *Mollie Towers*. Enjoyable enough, but if a sympathetic male character doesn't come along soon, I'm off to the pub.

Last night, at least, there were seriously boyish diversions to be found closer to home. Actually, less of the seriously and rather more of the boyish. For *The Outer Limits* (BBC2) hardly advanced the frontiers of new manhood with its exploration of one of the great mainstays of science fiction, the search for the perfect woman. Who'd have thought that when they found her, she'd be called Valerie?

But Valerie it was - Valerie 23, to be specific, although there was no mention as to the fate of her 22 predecessors. "We prefer to call her an inorganic human," said the

man from Innobotics as he introduced her to her reluctant new tester, Frank. Reluctant he may have been, but Frank was no fool - he'd even taken to a wheelchair, presumably to reduce the risk of losing an eye should his statuesque new friend turn round suddenly. "I'm fully functional," she promised with a metallic gleam in her eye. And from her hydraulic legs to her bee-stung lips, you didn't doubt it for a minute.

Thankfully, Frank had a physiotherapist, Rachel, who, apart from being organic, was also a philosophy graduate. So while Valerie was merrily snapping the handles off frying pans, it fell to Rachel to rescue the script by quoting Descartes during manipulation sessions. You know the sort of thing. "I flinch therefore I am." Inevitably, it all ended in tears, some wet and salty, some saline solution containing trace polypeptides.

Can't wait for Valerie 24? Back on BBC1 another episode of *Bramwell* seemed in process, until I realised that the Chancellor under scrutiny was Lord Lawson and the plague he was charged with spreading across the country by Panoramia was negative equity. Lawson's relaxation of monetary policy is blamed by nearly everybody for the sharp rise in house prices in the late 1980s and the even sharper fall that followed. Everyone, that is, except him. "It did not make a fundamental difference to what was happening on the economic front, but it certainly meant that people who took this foolish decision of chasing prices up unfortunately got their fingers burnt." Not a little apology? Definitely not. "Rational housebuyers should not have borrowed more than they could afford to borrow," Robert Hardy had better watch out.

SERVICE

10am News 5.30
10.30 What's New
11.45 On the Move
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TUESDAY MAY 23 1995

Richards rested from powerful XV for match with Argentina

Morris makes opening bow

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN DURBAN

DEWI MORRIS, a depressed man during the 1991 Rugby World Cup, began his final month of first-class rugby in the same mood here yesterday. The Orrell scrum half, who sat among the replacements for all six matches that England played during the last tournament, will start the 1995 World Cup against Argentina at King's Park on Saturday.

Morris replaces Kyran Bracken in the only unforgotten change from the XV which beat Scotland two months ago to win the five nations' championship and grand slam. He will be joined in the side by Steve Ojomoh, who replaced Dean Richards during the game with Scotland and now does so again because the England management does



England fighting fit 46
French optimism 46

not wish to risk Richards' tender hamstring.

Other than at No.8, this must rate as England's strongest combination, no concession being made to opponents who are expected to prove particularly awkward at forward. Morris's inclusion is deserved both on general application and match fitness. Bracken, who played throughout the five nations, has not appeared in a match since March 18 because of a strained Achilles tendon, though the management professes no worries about his eventual participation.

Morris, 31, is to retire when the tournament ends and, in the hope of a final blaze of glory, has been on unpaid leave from his work as a promotional executive for a leisurewear firm since the turn of the year. He played his



Morris, with Carling at training yesterday, is in the mood to celebrate after being picked over Bracken for England's first World Cup game

twentieth international against Romania in November but, since then, has been confined to seven minutes of international rugby as a temporary replacement during the Calcutta Cup match.

"To play in the World Cup is something I have wanted ever since I started international rugby," he said. That was in 1988, only a few months after he had left junior rugby with Warrington Park, but, in 1991, as a World Cup squad member, he had to watch Richard Hill play throughout the tournament. "It made me more

determined than ever and I know that if I don't perform, back I'll go to the bench."

Morris has devoted himself to training according to a programme laid down by Andy Clarke, Orrell's conditioning coach. He has also prepared alongside Clarke's brother, Phil, the rugby league international, at Wigan's Central Park ground.

"I went through their routines and I feel fitter and stronger," Morris said, "but rugby is so demanding now that it feels as though we are holding down two jobs, it's ridiculous. I didn't want the day-to-day hassle of work to distract me. I've been dreaming about my last match being the World Cup final at Ellis Park on June 24."

ARGENTINA: E Jurado (Locky, R. Garcia), D Cuesta Silva (San Isidro), F Garcia (Alumni), S Sefat (Alumni, captain), M Taran (Tucuman), L Arbizu (Belgrano A.C.), R Grassi (Locky, R. Garcia), M Corral (San Isidro), F Mendez (Mercedes), P Noriega (Tucuman), R Martin (San Isidro), P Spiller (La Plata), G Lamas (Curupa), C Vici (Newman), J Santamarina (Tucuman).

ENGLAND: M J Cast (Bath), T Underwood (Leicester), W D C Carling (Hartlepool), J C Gussott (Bath), R Underwood (Leicester), C R Andrews (Wessex), G D Morris (Orrell), J Leonard (Hartlepool), B C Moore (Hartlepool), V E Jorgensen (Bath), T A K. Rodder (Northampton), M O Johnston (Leicester), M C Bayfield (Northampton), B B Clarke (Bath), S O Ojomoh (Bath). Replacements: J E B Collins (Bath), F R de Glanville (Bath), K P P Bracken (Bath), N A Back (Leicester), G C Rowntree (Leicester), R G R Davis (Bath).

Jack Rowell, the England manager, admits that Morris was unfortunate to lose his place after the match against Romania, but now the wheel has turned. "If things go according to plan, the best England team will play in the quarter-finals," Rowell said. By inference, that includes Richards, who worked with

Kevin Murphy, the physiotherapist, for most of two training runs yesterday. England had the option of playing Ojomoh at open-side flanker and moving Ben Clarke to No.8, but chose to leave Clarke in the position where, in the optimum side, he will be used. Not that Ojomoh, who will win his seventh cap,

is displeased. "I'm particularly happy because I've been picked in my favourite position," he said. "I have some very big boots to fill, but I never shirk a challenge."

Argentina will field the same pack which did so well in the 30-13 defeat against Australia in Sydney just over a fortnight ago. Their changes are at full back, where Ezequiel Jurado moves from the wing to replace the injured Meson, thus allowing for the return of the experienced Diego Cuesta Silva, and at stand-off half, where the quicksilver Lisandro Arbizu plays.

The last England team to meet Argentina, in November 1990, won 51-0. Another half-century, though it would be welcome, is not expected.

Price formula creates ticket surplus

FROM DAVID HANDS

ONLY a month ago, there was a premium on flights, accommodation and tickets for rugby union's World Cup, which begins on Thursday. Yesterday, however, officials here in Durban were able to assure any irate soul in England that, if they wished to watch England's pool games against Argentina, Italy and Western Samoa over the next fortnight, the opportunity to do so could be guaranteed.

The Johannesburg Star captured the situation in a cartoon which depicted a World Cup official offering a box full of match tickets to a sceptical South African supporter: "Those cheapskate foreigners won't buy these lovely tickets so you get first option," the official says.

That, of course, is what the local rugby

enthusiasts have not had and, with ticket prices set at 66 rand (around £12) for pool matches and 165 rand for the quarter and semi-final matches, to be held at the refurbished King's Park Stadium, they are not eager to take up the slack.

And substantial slack there is. Rugby World Cup set the prices last year against advice from local officials and opted for packages which involved purchasers buying tickets for a series of matches. Officials, not knowing how many packages have been taken up, choose not to guess at the attendance when England play Argentina on Saturday, but, in a stadium which will hold 50,000, only half the capacity may be taken.

A fortnight ago, 400,000 tickets were returned from overseas and were dispatched to the larger provincial centres.

The Natal Rugby Union received 13,000 tickets for England v Argentina, of which it has sold 3,000; it received 20,000 for England v Western Samoa on June 4, for which the price is 110 rand, and 5,000 of those have been sold; 24,000 were returned for the quarter-final on June 10, of which 6,000 have been sold, and 15,000 for the semi-final on June 17, of which 7,000 have gone.

"I hope there will be an upswing and people come at the last minute," Pete Smith, the Natal secretary, said. "But last year, when England were here, we pitched the tickets at 40 rand and couldn't fill the stadium." Prices may not appear high in England, where seats at Twickenham can cost £34, but in South Africa supporters pay just twenty rand for Currie Cup matches.

Canadian cleared to serve Britain

BY STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

GREG RUSEDSKI has found it easier to appease the International Tennis Federation (ITF) than his new colleagues. As soon as he had been given permission officially to change allegiance, from Canada to Great Britain, rumblings of deep discontent were heard.

They were voiced by Chris Wilkinson, the nation's No.1 two years ago. Far from greeting the arrival of a potentially world-class player to bolster a Davis Cup team heading towards the third world of tennis, he intimated that he would never again compete for Britain.

He already felt alienated when, the highest ranked member of the squad, he was left out of the team which lost 5-0 to Slovakia in last month. Yesterday, he openly expressed his disapproval. "Like other leading British players, I have worked my butt off to represent my country and make a living from the game," Wilkinson said. "Although we may not be world-



Rusedski: Purley base

beat, there is still a lot of pride in being the best in the country where you have been born.

"Coming on the back of playing a South African (Neil Broad) in the Davis Cup team, I feel there has been a cruel disregard for players like myself who have played for Britain at all levels. We will have a large chunk of our

ambition and income taken away by mercenaries from overseas."

His comments, and those of Mark Petchey, another to have been overlooked, will be regarded in some quarters with sympathy and, in others, as the reactions of the petulant.

David Lloyd's job, as the new Davis Cup captain, is to pick the strongest team for the relegation play-off against Monaco at Eastbourne in July. Rightly, he insists that Rusedski, 21, though ranked 47th in the world and instantly the new British No.1, will not necessarily be selected.

Rusedski, 6ft 3in, born in Montreal to a British mother, has exciting promise, but can he cope with the additional strain of Davis Cup competition? Petchey, beaten in his past eight singles rubbers, evidently cannot. Hence his omission.

Can Rusedski, an individual capable of winning one ATP tournament and reaching

the final of another within the last month, fit into a team? Wilkinson, by his own admission, is happier working on his own. Hence, perhaps, the decision, taken by Billy Knight, to drop him.

Rusedski's left-handed service, at 137mph the fastest recorded, is a formidable weapon, especially on grass, but he has won only one match at Wimbledon in two years. It would be premature, therefore, to hail him as the figurehead much needed in the domestic game.

Had it not been for Lucy Connors, his girlfriend, Rusedski, who owns a British passport, might not have passed the strict qualifications set by the ITF. Approval of his application was delayed while confirmation was sought that he had indeed resided in England for the majority of the past three years when not competing. He has spent three-quarters of his limited free time in Purley, where she lives.

Mansell stays tight-lipped about future

Oliver Holt asks whether the Briton has already reached the end of the road with McLaren



A thin man looking at his last meal or a fat man looking at a blade of steel: all sorts of riddles surrounded Nigel Mansell yesterday as he stood between a Williams-Renault, the symbol of his glorious past, and a McLaren-Mercedes, the embodiment of his uncertain future, in a quiet street in central London. The Monaco Grand Prix, the showpiece of the Formula One motor racing season, is only five days away, but doubts still linger over whether he will be driving in it.

Drowning in a sea of photographers and female television personalities, Mansell sat obligingly on the McLaren that has caused him so many problems, to launch the RAC Rally Ladies initiative in aid of Tommy's, the charity funding research to reduce miscarriages and stillbirths.

He cast wistful glances at the Williams but, under the watchful eye of Ron Dennis, the McLaren managing director, whose wife, Lisa, is one of the driving forces behind the Rally Ladies idea, he stayed dutifully by his post.

Formula One is already awash with rumours that Dennis made an unscheduled visit to see Mansell at his new home in Devon at the weekend to discuss his performance in the Spanish Grand Prix ten days ago and with stories of crisis meetings between McLaren and Marlboro, their sponsors.

The 1992 world champion chose to retire early in Barcelona rather than persevere with an ill-handling car, and there is intense speculation that Dennis has already asked him to stand down for Monaco. Many expect an announcement either today or later in the week to that effect.

They appeared amicable yesterday, but both steadfastly refused to confirm that

Mansell would partner Mika Hakkinen in Monte Carlo. "I am not even going to start a dialogue," Dennis said. Asked if he was looking forward to the race, Mansell said: "I am looking forward to the future - whatever it may hold."

Mansell has not been able to test the car and improve it since the Spanish race. Logic would suggest that he would face the same crippling handling difficulties in Monaco, where the understeer problem that caused him particular anxiety would be even more critical and dangerous. Mark Blundell is favourite to take over should Mansell not take part.

Other sources say that Dennis is determined to persevere with Mansell and that he will continue at least until the British Grand Prix at Silverstone in July.

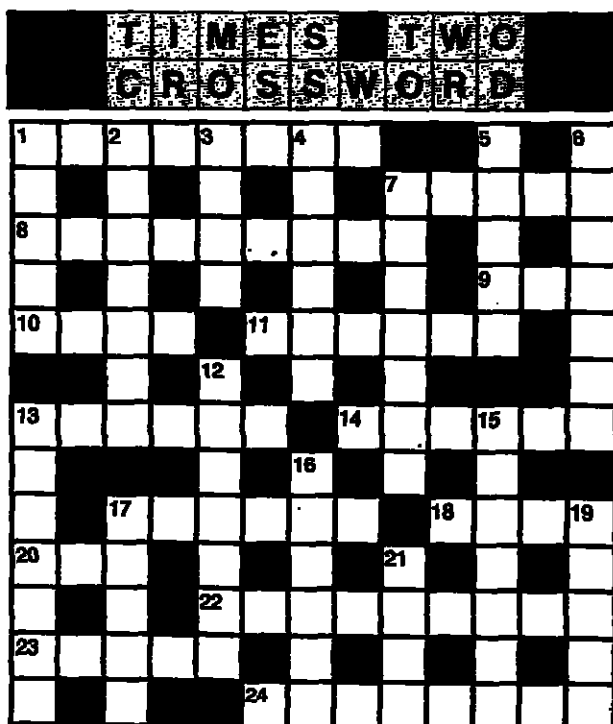
In the few comments Mansell made, he gave little away.

"What I have found since I came back to Formula One is how things have changed. Some is for the better, but a lot for the worse. The thing that suffers most is the sport."

"I cannot answer whether I will be in Monaco, but it is a shame that those questions have to be asked. You cannot take away the effort I have put in this year. The car is not right, but that has got nothing to do with me."

"It was optimistic to think we could get a result in Mercedes' first year of involvement with McLaren. It might not be this year, but McLaren and Mercedes will be the team to beat in the future. At the moment, the car is not as competitive as the Benetton or Williams - or even Ferrari."

Karl Wendlinger, the Austrian driver who fell into a coma after crashing at Monaco last year but made an astonishing return to racing, is set to be dropped by Sauber for Monte Carlo.



No 477

ACROSS

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- 7 Main vessel from heart (5)
- 8 Crime by employee (6,3)
- 9 Group: solidified (3)
- 10 Story (4)
- 11 Hold tight (6)
- 13 Sixth-formers' exam (1,5)
- 14 Give confidential advance warning (3,3)
- 17 Royal Engineer: thriller writer (6)
- 18 Thick solid piece (4)
- 20 Take exam (3)
- 22 Shropshire hill (3,6)
- 23 Similar (5)
- 24 Of the inside (8)

DOWN

- 1 Diversionary sham attack (5)
- 2 Pardon, acquit (7)
- 3 Form of unarmed combat (4)
- 4 Wheedle (6)
- 5 Vulgarly assertive (5)
- 6 Powerful, short-haired dog (7)
- 7 Decide not to vote (7)
- 12 Temporary relief (7)
- 13 Plumbing the depths (7)
- 15 Waterproof material (7)
- 16 Greek sea (6)
- 17 Tear off, thin band (5)
- 18 Triton (5)
- 21 Faithful (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 476

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17 Emeritus 20 Ailment 21 Ostrich 22 Midget 23 Helpful
- DOWN: 1 Strudel 2 Locust 3 Corduroy 4 Slanging match
5 Fuji 6 Crucial 7 Tinge 12 Charcoal 14 Yule-log
15 Wastrel 16 Charm 18 Thief 19 Kept

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